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Commission on Sustainable Development

Report on the twelfth session (9 May 2003 and 14-30 April 2004)

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Note

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Draft decision recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its twelfth session and provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its twelfth session and approves the provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.[1]
4. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2004-2005 (policy session):
   (a) Water;
   (b) Sanitation;
   (c) Human settlements.
5. Other matters.
6. Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirteenth session.

[1] To be held in New York from 28 February to 4 March 2005.

Chapter II

Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2004-2005: (a) water; (b) sanitation; (c) Human settlements

1. The Commission considered item 3 at its 4th to 23rd meetings, from 19 to 30 April 2004. For the documentation before the Commission under this agenda item, please see annex I.

2. At its 4th meeting, on 19 April, the Commission heard presentations on the outcomes of intersessional events by the following participants: Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco) on the International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in June 2003; Rashid Alimov (Tajikistan) on the Dushanbe International Fresh Water Forum; Damla Say, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations, on the Workshop on Governance for the Implementation of Outcomes from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Countries with Economies in Transition, held in Istanbul in September 2003; Bjørn Skogmo, Assistant Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, on an international conference on the theme "Water for the poorest" held in Stavanger, Norway, in November 2003; Alberto Gagliardi, Under-Secretary for Regional Affairs of Italy, on the International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development, held in Rome in March 2004; Zhang Yishan (China), on a sustainable development leadership forum on implementing the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at the municipal level, held in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, in February 2004; and Arcado Ntagazwa, Minister of the Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in March 2004.

3. At the same meeting, the following delegations made opening statements: Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Ireland (on behalf of the European Community, 15 Member States and the 10 acceding countries), Australia, the Russian Federation, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries), South Africa, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

5. At the same meeting, statements were made on the overall review of the implementation of Agenda 21 by the delegations of Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Ireland (on behalf of the European Community, 15 Member States and the 10 acceding countries).

6. At its 5th meeting, on 19 April, the Commission began an interactive discussion on the theme "Status of implementation of Millennium Development Goals/Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goals related to water from global to local levels" and heard lead-off remarks by Alvaro Umaña, Leader, Environmentally Sustainable Development Group, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

and Roberto Lenton, Co-Chair, Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Water and Sanitation.

7. At the same meeting, statements were made by delegations of South Africa, Ireland (on behalf of the European Community, 15 Member States and the 10 acceding countries, as well as Croatia), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Burkina Faso, the United States, Croatia, Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Israel, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Lebanon, Sweden, Egypt, the United Kingdom and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as observers for trade unions, non-governmental organizations, the scientific and technological community and farmers.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans: integrating water management into national sustainable development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, action on the ground and implications for water supply and sanitation", and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Conall O'Connell, Deputy Secretary, Department of Environment and Heritage, Australia; and Jerson Kelman, Director-President, Agencia Nacional de Aguas, Brazil.

9. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Switzerland, Ireland (on behalf of the European Community, 15 Member States and the 10 acceding countries, as well as Croatia), Sweden, Japan, South Africa, Cuba, Burkina Faso, Egypt, the Republic of Korea and the United States, as well as by the observers for trade unions, farmers and the scientific and technological community.

10. At its 6th meeting, on 20 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Water policies and reforms to make the use and governance of water resources more effective and sustainable" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Mike Muller, Director-General, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa; Raquel Alfaro Fernandois, Presidenta Directorio, Empresa de Servicios Sanitarios de la Araucania, Chile; and Li Yanyan, Deputy Chief Engineer and Professor, Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design, General Institute, Ministry of Water Resources, China.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Canada, Mauritius (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Thailand, China, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria and Romania; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro), India, Finland, Turkey, Brazil, Bhutan, Uganda, Kenya and Venezuela.

12. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the RaMSAR Convention, an intergovernmental organization accredited to the Commission, made a statement.

13. At the same meeting, the observer for the trade unions (on behalf of the major groups) also made a statement.

14. Also at the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Building capacity for cooperative management of water and provision of

water services" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Mike Muller, Director-General, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa; Dennis D. Mwanza, Managing Director, Water Utility Partnership, Côte d'Ivoire; and Rosario Villaluna, Executive Secretary, Global Coalition of Water and Sanitation Resource Centres, Philippines.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Chile, Malaysia, Senegal, the United States, Norway, Belgium, Colombia, Mexico, New Zealand, France, Australia, Tajikistan, Benin, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria and Romania; and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro), Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic and Japan.

16. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the European Community and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), intergovernmental organizations accredited with the Commission, also made statements.

17. At the same meeting, the observer for youth made a statement.

18. At its 6th meeting (parallel), on 20 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion with the representatives of the nine major groups. The time allocated to the major groups' presentations was divided into three groups. The first group of major groups comprised: women, local authorities and trade unions.

19. At the same meeting, the Chairman also made a statement, after which statements were made by the delegations of South Africa, Sweden, the Russian Federation and Australia.

20. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the following major groups responded to questions raised and comments made: trade unions and women.

21. At the same meeting (parallel), the interactive discussion continued with the presentations from the second group of major groups: non-governmental organizations, farmers and indigenous people.

22. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of France and Australia.

23. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following major groups responded to questions raised and comments made: women, farmers, trade unions, indigenous people and local authorities.

24. Also at the same meeting (parallel), the Commission continued interactive discussion with presentations from the third group of major groups: the scientific and technological community, business and industry, and youth and children.

25. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Burkina Faso, Venezuela, the Russian Federation, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, Egypt, Sweden, Japan, Australia and France.

26. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the following major groups responded to questions raised and comments made: indigenous people, trade unions,

non-governmental organizations, the scientific and technological community, business and industry and farmers.

27. At the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the discussion.

28. At its 7th meeting, on 20 April, the Commission conducted a discussion on the theme "Review of progress in implementation from a regional perspective for the ESCAP region", and heard a presentation by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

29. At the same meeting, the following experts made lead-off remarks: Patricia Moser, Asian Development Bank; Isikia Rabici Savua, Permanent Representative of Fiji (on behalf of the members of the ESCAP subregion of the Pacific); A.Y.B.I. Siddiqi, former Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives, Bangladesh, and Co-Chair of Asia and the Pacific RIM; and Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Professor, President, International Association of Hydrological Sciences, Japan.

30. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Tajikistan, Japan, Australia, Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, the United States, Indonesia, India and the Republic of Korea.

31. At the same meeting, the observers for farmers, women and the trade unions (speaking on behalf of the major groups) also made statements.

32. Also at the same meeting, the Commission conducted a discussion on the theme "Review of progress in implementation from a regional perspective for the ECE region", and heard an opening statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

33. At the same meeting, Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, made a presentation on the Chair's summary of the ECE regional implementation forum.

34. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria and Romania, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process, and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Turkey), Norway, Switzerland, Cuba, the Russian Federation, the United States, Kyrgyzstan, the Czech Republic and Nigeria.

35. At the same meeting, the observer for UNEP also made a statement.

36. Also at the same meeting, the observers for youth, women and trade unions also made statements.

37. At the same meeting, the Secretary of State of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made concluding remarks.

38. Also at the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of ECE summarized the discussions.

39. At its 7th meeting (parallel), on 20 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Balancing water uses: water for people, environment, food and other uses" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Frank

Rijsberman, Director-General, International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka; Munther Haddadin, former Minister of Water and Irrigation, Jordan; and Alfred Duda, Senior Adviser, Global Environment Facility.

40. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of the Netherlands, Algeria, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, Germany, Lesotho, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Australia, the United Kingdom and Japan.

41. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the following major groups: business and industry, trade unions, women, and the scientific and technological community.

42. At its 7th meeting (parallel), on 20 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Water demand management and water conservation: untapped potential?" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Frank Rijsberman, Director-General, International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka; Apichart Anukularmphai, President, Water Resources Association, Thailand; and David Brooks, Research Director, Friends of the Earth (Canada).

43. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement.

44. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of South Africa, Canada, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries), the United States, Egypt, Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, Greece, Japan, Brazil, France, Costa Rica and Nigeria.

45. At the same meeting, the observer for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), an accredited intergovernmental organization, also made a statement.

46. Also at the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of UNEP.

47. At the same meeting, statements were made also by observers for the following major groups: women, the scientific and technological community, and local authorities.

Overall review

48. At its 8th meeting, on 21 April, the Commission heard statements by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria and Romania; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Turkey), China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Canada, the United Republic of Tanzania, Nigeria, the United States, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, Ecuador, Pakistan, New Zealand (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Brazil, Turkey, South Africa, Tonga, Cuba, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Malaysia, the Czech Republic, Colombia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, India, Uganda, Sweden, Japan, Lesotho and the Netherlands.

49. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the European Community and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as by the observer for the Basel Convention.

50. At its 8th meeting (parallel), on 21 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Meeting the financial challenge for water: incentives to promote reforms and leverage resources" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Thierry Chambolle, Advisor, Suez, and Chairman, International Chamber of Commerce Contact Group, France; Ravi Narayanan, Director, WaterAid, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and John Wasielewski, Director, Office of Development Credit, United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

51. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Switzerland, South Africa, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Norway, Denmark, Dominica, France, Austria, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Costa Rica and the Netherlands.

52. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the European Community made a statement.

53. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the observer for UNEP.

54. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by observers for the following major groups: women, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and farmers.

55. At the same meeting, the experts responded to questions raised and comments made.

56. Also at the same meeting, on 21 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Empowering stakeholders to ensure participation, in particular women as agents of change" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Kerstin Müller, Minister of State, Germany; Ravi Narayanan, Director, WaterAid, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Marie-Elise Gbèdo, l'Association des Femmes Juristes du Bénin, Benin; and Linette Vassell, Community Development and Gender Specialist, Ministry of Water and Housing, Jamaica.

57. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement.

58. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Turkey, Venezuela, Canada, Ireland, Japan, the United States, the United Republic of Tanzania, France and Switzerland.

59. At the same meeting, statements were made by observers for the following major groups: women, business and industry, trade unions, indigenous people and farmers.

60. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the discussion.

61. At its 9th meeting (parallel), on 21 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Status of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals/Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goals related to sanitation, from local to global levels" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Gourisankar Ghosh, Executive Director, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council; Jamie Bartram, Coordinator, Water, Sanitation and Health, World Health Organization; and Albert Wright, Co-Chair, Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Water and Sanitation (see also chap. IV below).

62. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, which aligned themselves with the statement), Kenya, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Venezuela, the Netherlands, Côte d'Ivoire and Pakistan.

63. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following major groups: women, trade unions, and youth and children.

64. At the same meeting, the experts responded to questions raised and comments made.

65. Also at the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Strategies for improving access to basic sanitation" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Gourisankar Ghosh, Executive Director, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council; Vanessa Tobin, Chief, Water, Environment and Sanitation Section, United Nations Children's Fund; Patrick Kahangire, Director, Department of Water, Uganda; and Bernardo Monge Ureña, Director, Dirección Protección Ambiente Humano, Costa Rica.

66. At the same meeting, statements were made by delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and the EFTA country, Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, which aligned themselves with the statement), the United Kingdom, Switzerland, South Africa, Pakistan, Burkina Faso, France, Austria and the United States.

67. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by observers for the following major groups: women, non-governmental organizations and trade unions.

68. At the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the discussion.

69. At its 10th meeting, on 22 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Creating a demand for sanitation and promoting hygiene through awareness-raising and marketing strategies, taking into account cultural and social preferences and obstacles" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder of Sulabh International, New Delhi, India; and Peter Kolsky, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank.

70. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of China, Norway, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area), the United States, the Russian Federation, France, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, India, Uganda, Australia, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, the Netherlands and Lesotho.

71. Also at the same meeting, the observers for scientific and technological communities and trade unions made statements.

72. At the same meeting, the Commission also held an interactive discussion on the theme "From wastewater to sustainable sanitation" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Peter Kolsky, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank; Dato' Ir Lee Yee Cheong, President, World Federation of Engineering Organizations and Co-Chair, Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Science and Technology, Malaysia; Paul Reiter, Executive Director, International Water Association, United Kingdom; and Cees van de Guchte, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP.

73. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area), Mexico, Senegal, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Fiji and the United Kingdom.

74. At the same meeting, the observer for IUCN, an intergovernmental organization accredited to the Commission, made a statement.

75. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples, business and industry and women, made statements.

76. At its 10th meeting (parallel), on 22 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Slums and urban poverty: changing patterns of human settlements" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: the Director of the Global Division of UN-Habitat; David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow, Human Settlements Programme, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Timothy Mahoney, Director, Poverty Reduction Office, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, USAID.

77. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA country, Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, which aligned themselves with the statement), Germany, the Netherlands, India, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Sweden, France, Nigeria, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Mauritius, South Africa and Finland.

78. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observer for trade unions.

79. At the same meeting, the experts responded to questions raised and comments made.

80. Also at the same meeting, the Commission also held an interactive discussion on the theme "Women in human settlements development: challenges and opportunities" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Sheela Patel, Director, Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centre, India; and Grace Wanyonyi, Director of Housing, Ministry of Roads and Public Works, Kenya.

81. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Japan, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, which aligned themselves with the statement), South Africa, Burkina Faso, Philippines, the Netherlands, United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

82. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following major groups: indigenous people, women and youth and children.

83. At the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the discussion.

84. At its 11th meeting, on 22 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Status of implementation of Millennium Development Goals/Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goals related to human settlements, from global to local levels" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: the Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and Elliot Sclar, Professor of Urban Planning, University of Columbia, Co-chair, Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Slum Dwellers.

85. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Burkina Faso, China, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area), Cuba, Uganda, the Republic of Korea, Kenya, the United States, Mexico, South Africa, Japan, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria and Venezuela.

86. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the non-governmental organizations and trade unions also made statements.

87. At the same meeting the Commission also held an interactive discussion on the theme "Prerequisites for housing the poor" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Glyn Khonje, Director, Department of Physical Planning and Housing, Ministry of Local Government and Housing, Zambia; Jane Weru, Director,

Pamoja Trust, Kenya; and Miloon Kothary, Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Human Rights Commission.

88. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Senegal, Peru, Venezuela, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area) and Norway.

89. At its 11th meeting (parallel), the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Financing sanitation: approaches to mobilizing community and market-based resources" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Ravi Narayanan, Director, WaterAid, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Piers Cross, Team Leader, Water and Sanitation Programme; Passy Washeba, Assistant Commissioner, Social Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of Uganda.

90. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Kenya, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, the Bahamas, Ireland, Egypt, South Africa, France, Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Korea, Zambia, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Pakistan, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

91. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following major groups: trade unions and women.

92. Also at the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Reaching the poor through small entrepreneurs: employment generation through basic sanitation" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Piers Cross, Team Leader, Water and Sanitation Programme; Dennis D. Mwanza, Managing Director, Water Utility Partnership, Côte d'Ivoire; and Diana Iskrevaldigo, Director, Earth Forever, Bulgaria.

93. At the same meeting, statements were made by delegations of Fiji, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, France, Finland, Germany and Lesotho.

94. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observer for trade unions.

95. At the same meeting, the experts responded to questions raised and comments made.

96. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the discussion.

97. At the 12th meeting, on 23 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Financing human settlements development" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Mark Hildebrand, Executive Director, Cities Alliance; and the Programme Coordinator of the Urban Management Programme of UN-Habitat.

98. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Swaziland, Sweden, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Kenya, the Czech Republic, India, Canada, Nigeria, Benin, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta,

Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro) and Pakistan.

99. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the Holy See made a statement.

100. At the same meeting, the observer for the World Bank also made a statement.

101. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the non-governmental organizations also made a statement.

102. At the same meeting, the Commission also held an interactive discussion on the theme "Urban governance, the role of local authorities and the contribution of civil society groups" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Amos Masondo, President, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa; Arputham Jockin, President of National Slum Dwellers Federation, India; and Joel Bolnick, Coordinator of the Community Organization Urban Resources Center in Cape Town.

103. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, Kenya, the United States, Saudi Arabia, China, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Cuba, the United Kingdom, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro), Belgium, Canada and the Philippines.

104. At the same meeting, the observer of the European Community, an intergovernmental organization, made a statement.

105. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the trade unions made a statement.

106. At the same meeting, the observers for the indigenous peoples and women also made statements.

107. At its 12th meeting (parallel), the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Hygiene, sanitation and water management at the household and community levels" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Yasumoto Magara, Professor, Hokkaido University, Japan; a consultant to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), East Asia and Pacific Regional Office; and Edgar Quiroga, Director, CINARA, Colombia.

108. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Canada, India, Senegal, Switzerland, Japan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Jamaica, France, Sweden, Lesotho, Venezuela and Côte d'Ivoire.

109. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the following major groups: trade unions, youth and children, business and industry, non-governmental organizations and women.

110. At the same meeting, the experts responded to questions raised and comments made.

111. Also at the same meeting, the Commission also held an interactive discussion on the theme "Technologies: potential for and key obstacles to scaling up and marketing of ecological sanitation" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Edgar Quiroga, Director, CINARA, Colombia; Christine Werner, Project Team Leader, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, Germany; and Mi Hua, Project Officer, Rural Water and Sanitation Program Office, Guangxi Province, China.

112. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Uganda, Sweden, South Africa, Switzerland, France, Burkina Faso, the United States, the United Kingdom, Kenya and Japan.

113. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following major groups: non-governmental organizations, indigenous people and women.

114. At the same meeting, the experts responded to questions raised and comments made.

115. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the discussion.

116. At the 13th meeting, on 23 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Review of progress in implementation from a regional perspective for the ECA Region" and heard an introductory statement by the Vice-Chairman, Bolus Paul Zom Lolo (Nigeria).

117. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the African regional implementation meeting, Francis Babu, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Uganda, made a presentation.

118. Also at the same meeting, the Commission heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Shehu Yahaya, Principal Industrial Economist, African Development Bank; Thomas Fofung Tata, Chairman, Interim Executive Committee, Forum of African Civil Society for Sustainable Development; and the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa.

119. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), the United Republic of Tanzania, Nigeria, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Senegal, the United States, Kenya, Algeria, Sierra Leone, Sweden and Ghana.

120. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Habitat also made statements.

121. At the same meeting, statements were made on the theme "Overall review from their country's perspective of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation for Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation" by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Australia, Norway, Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, South Africa, Indonesia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Venezuela, Ethiopia and Fiji.

122. Also at the same meeting, the observers for scientific and technological community and youth also made statements.

123. At its 13th meeting (parallel), on 23 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Planning the sustainable city: partnerships and city development strategies" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Pietro Garau, Professor, Co-chairman, Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Slum Dwellers; Krishnaswamy Rajivan, Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund, India; and Adepoju G. Onibokun, Professor and Secretary General, Centre for African Settlement Studies and Development, Nigeria.

124. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Brazil, Canada, the United States, Venezuela, China, Greece, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

125. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by observers for the following major groups: the scientific and technological community, and trade unions.

126. At the same meeting, the experts responded to questions raised and comments made.

127. Also at the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Reconstruction and recovery following conflicts and natural disasters" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Teodor Antic, former Assistant Minister of Justice, Administration and Local Government, Croatia; and Nabeel Hamdi, Director, Centre for Development and Emergency Planning, Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

128. At the same meeting, statements were made by delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Switzerland, India, Venezuela, Japan, the United States, Croatia and Canada.

129. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following major groups: women and trade unions.

130. At the same meeting, the experts responded to questions raised and comments made.

131. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the discussion.

132. At the 14th meeting, on 26 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Review of progress in implementation from a regional perspective for the ECLAC region" and heard an introductory statement by the Vice-Chairman, Bruno Stagno Ugarte (Costa Rica).

133. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) made a presentation.

134. Also at the same meeting, the following experts made lead-off remarks: Erminia Maricato, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Cities, Brazil; Humberto Peña, General Director of Water, Ministry of Public Works, Chile; Miguel Solanes, member of the Technical Committee of the Global Water Partnership; and Mirta Roses, Pan American Health Organization.

135. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, the United States and Argentina.

136. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the following major groups: women, non-governmental organizations and trade unions.

137. At the same meeting, statements were also made by representatives of UNEP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

138. Also at the same meeting, the representative of ECLAC summarized the discussion.

139. At the same meeting, the Commission also held an interactive dialogue on the theme "Review of progress in implementation from a regional perspective for the ESCWA region" and head an introductory statement by the Vice-Chairman, Toru Shimizu (Japan).

140. Also at the same meeting, the Minister of Water and Environment of Yemen, Mohammad El-Eryani, made a presentation on the outcome of the West Asia Regional Meeting.

141. At the same meeting, the following experts made lead-off remarks: Adly Hussein, Governor of Kalyoubiah, Egypt; Khaled Fakhro, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bahrain; and Fatma El-Mallah, Head of Environment and Sustainable Development Division, League of Arab States.

142. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States.

143. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer for the trade unions.

144. At its 15th meeting, on 26 April, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "Relationship among the three themes: water, sanitation and human settlements".

145. At the same meeting, the Commission heard lead-off remarks by the following experts on the theme "Role of local authorities": Mark Hildebrand, Executive Director, Cities Alliance; and Kaarin Taipale, former Chair, ICLEI, Finland.

146. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Qatar, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA countries and members of the EEA Iceland and Liechtenstein), Burkina Faso, Japan, Senegal, France, South Africa, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Finland, Sweden, Australia, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, Mexico and Jordan.

147. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following major groups: trade unions, business and industry, and the scientific and technological community.

148. Also at the same meeting, the experts made concluding remarks.

149. At the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the theme "How to provide the poor with entitlements and assets" and heard lead-off remarks by the following experts: Miloon Kothary (India), Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on adequate housing; and the Coordinator of the Water, Sanitation and Health Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO).

150. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by delegations of Norway, Pakistan, the United States, Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77), Finland, Colombia and Switzerland.

151. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following major groups: youth and children, trade unions, indigenous people and farmers.

152. Also at the same meeting, the experts made concluding remarks.

153. At the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the discussion.

154. At its 16th meeting, on 27 April, the Commission continued the interactive dialogue on the theme "Relationship among the three themes: water, sanitation and human settlements".

155. At the same meeting, the Commission heard lead-off remarks by the following experts on the theme "Poverty eradication": Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair, Global Water Partnership, Canada; Sir Richard Jolly, Professor, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom; and Pietro Garau, Professor, Co-chairman, Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Slum Dwellers.

156. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Switzerland, Kenya, Uganda, Kazakhstan, Australia, Norway, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA countries and members of the EEA Iceland and Liechtenstein), Canada, Fiji, Senegal, South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States.

157. At the same meeting, the observer for IUCN, an intergovernmental organization, made a statement.

158. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the following major groups: trade unions, the scientific and technological community, business and industry, and indigenous people.

159. At the same meeting, the observer for ECE made a statement.

160. Also at the same meeting, the experts made concluding remarks.

161. At the same meeting, the Commission also held an interactive discussion on the theme "Other cross-cutting issues" and heard statements by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia

and Montenegro; and the EFTA countries and members of the EEA Iceland and Liechtenstein), France, South Africa, the Niger and Tunisia.

162. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following major groups: the scientific and technological community, youth and children, and farmers.

163. At the 17th meeting, on 27 April, the Chairman introduced part one of his summary (see para. 195 below).

164. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of India, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries), Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the United States, Mexico, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, Australia, Japan and Argentina.

High-level segment

165. At the 18th meeting, on 28 April 2004, the Chairperson (Norway) opened the high-level segment and made an opening statement.

166. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

167. At the 18th to 23rd meetings, on 28, 29 and 30 April, ministers made statements during the high-level segment.

168. At the 18th meeting, on 28 April, an opening statement was made by Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, Director of the Millennium Project and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, on the theme "Meeting targets, goals and timetables: key elements for sustainable development".

169. At the same meeting, ministerial statements were made by Yussef Hussein Kamal, Minister of Finance (Qatar) (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Ireland) (on behalf of the European Union); Paula Dobriansky, Under-Secretary for Global Affairs (United States); Yuriko Koike, Minister of Environment (Japan); Liu Jiang, Minister and Vice-Chair of National Development and Reform Commission (China); Mohamed Elyazghi, Minister of Water and Environment (Morocco); Jurgen Trittin, Federal Minister for the Environment (Germany); Kwak Kyul Ho, Minister of the Environment (Republic of Korea); Siv Fridleifsdottier, Minister for the Environment (Iceland); Shahjahan Siraj, Minister for Environment and Forest (Bangladesh); Petr Mareš, Deputy Prime Minister (Czech Republic); Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (New Zealand); Newton Kulundu, Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife (Kenya); Fernando Tudela, Vice-Minister of Environment (Mexico); Mohamed Ibrahim Soliman, Minister of Housing (Egypt); David Kemp, Minister for Environment and Heritage (Australia); Anaelisa Osorio, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Venezuela); Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Pradipto Ghosh, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (India); Crispian Olver, Director-General, Environment Affairs and Tourism (South Africa); Alberto Díaz Lobo, Vice-President of the Republic

(Honduras); Nasrollah Kazemi Kamyab, Ambassador (Islamic Republic of Iran); Luc-Marie Constant Gnacadja, Minister for Environment (Benin); Denys Gauer, Ambassador for the Environment (France); Pieter van Giel, State Secretary for Spatial Planning, Housing and Environment (Netherlands); Prince Turki bin Naser Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Head of the Meteorology and Environment Protection Agency (Saudi Arabia); and Viveka Bohn (Sweden).

170. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by Ian Johnson, Vice-President and Head of Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network (World Bank); and John Monyo, Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development Department (FAO).

171. At the 19th meeting on 28 April, opening statements were made by the Administrator of UNDP and Michel Camdessus, former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

172. At the same meeting, ministerial statements on the theme "Creating an enabling environment at all levels: policies, governance and finance" were made by Margot Wallström, Environment Commissioner (European Community); Francis Babu, Minister of State for Water, Housing, Transport and Communications (Uganda) (on behalf of the African Group); Hilde Frafjord Johnson, Minister of International Development (Norway); Sylvia T. Masebo, Minister of Local Government and Housing (Zambia); David Anderson, Minister for Environment (Canada); Xavier Darcos, Minister for Cooperation, Development and Francophonie (France); Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Minister of Environment and Energy (Costa Rica); David Kemp, Minister for Environment and Heritage (Australia); Jan-Erik Enestam, Minister of Environment (Finland); Abduvokhid Karimov, Chair of the Government Committee on Environment and Forestry and Chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia (Tajikistan); Miklós Persanyi, Minister for Environment and Water (Hungary); Mok Mareth, Minister of Environment (Cambodia); Bela Mande, Minister of Environment (Nigeria); Eugene Berger, Secretary of State for the Environment (Luxembourg); Igor Strmšnik, Deputy Minister, Government Office for Structural Policy and Regional Development (Slovenia); Crispian Olver, Director-General, Environment Affairs and Tourism (South Africa); Miriam Haran, Director, Ministry of Environment (Israel); Suvit Khunkitti, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (Thailand); Berhanu Tamrat, State Minister of Federal Affairs (Ethiopia); John Turner, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State (United States of America); Ambrose George, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment (Dominica); Villu Reiljan, Minister of Environment (Estonia); Nandcoomar Bodha, Minister of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources (Mauritius); Prodipto Ghosh, Secretary for Environment (India); Raouf Dabbas, Adviser to the Minister of Environment (Jordan); Navin Chanderpal, Presidential Adviser on Sustainable Development (Guyana); and Alounkèo Kittikhoun, Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Lao People's Democratic Republic).

173. At the 20th meeting, on 29 April, opening statements were made by Marina Silva, Minister of Environment (Brazil) and Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), on the theme "Responding to the challenges".

174. At the same meeting, opening statements were also made by the Administrator of UNDP, the Executive Director of UNICEF, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the Executive Director of UNEP.

175. Also at the same meeting, ministerial statements were made by Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Ireland) (on behalf of the European Union); John Turner, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State (United States of America); Kahinda Otafiire, Minister of Water, Lands and Environment (Uganda); Carsten Staur, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Denmark); Hafiz Uddin Ammad, Minister for Water Resources (Bangladesh); Sylvia T. Masebo, Minister of Local Government and Housing (Zambia); Serge Lepeltier, Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development (France); Choisuren Baatar, Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Mongolia); Martha Karua, M.P., Minister for Water Resources Management and Development (Kenya); Virgilio Fontes Pereira, Minister of Urbanism and Environment (Angola); Admou Namata, Minister of Water, Environment and Combat Against Desertification (Niger); Patricia M. Hajabakiga, Minister of State in Charge of Land and Environment (Rwanda); Viveka Bohn, Ambassador, Ministry of Environment (Sweden); and Miklós Persányi, Minister of Environment and Water (Hungary).

176. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments (WHO); the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Kiyotaka Akasaka, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); and John Monyo, the Assistant Secretary-General of FAO.

177. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman opened the discussion on the theme "Releasing the energy of entrepreneurs and partnerships" and heard introductory statements by Paula Dobriansky, Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs, State Department (United States of America); and Bjørn Stigson, President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

178. At the same meeting, ministerial statements were made by Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Ireland) (on behalf of the European Union); Elliot Morley, Minister for the Environment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Olav Kjørven, Deputy Minister for International Development (Norway); David Anderson, Minister of Environment (Canada); Denys Gauer, Ambassador in charge of Environment (France); Corrado Clini, Director General, Ministry for the Environment and Territory (Italy); Murari Raj Sharma, Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Nepal); and Achim Steiner, Director-General of IUCN.

179. Also at the same meeting, a statement was also made by a senior specialist of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Steve Lennon, of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), also made a statement.

180. At the 21st meeting, on 29 April, opening statements were made by the major groups on the theme "Role and contributions of major groups" in the following order: youth, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, indigenous peoples, farmers, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, local authorities and women.

181. At the same meeting, ministerial statements were made by: Francis Mahon Hayes, Ambassador, Department of Foreign Affairs (Ireland) (on behalf of the European Union and acceding countries); Viveka Bohn, Ambassador, Ministry of Environment (Sweden); Jonathan Margolis, Special Representative for Sustainable Development, Department of State (United States); Marina Silva, Minister of Environment (Brazil); Nabuti Mwemwenikarawa, Minister for Finance and Economic Development (Kiribati); Clifford Marica, Minister of Labour, Technological Development and the Environment (Suriname); and Alfred M. Dube, Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Botswana).

182. Also at the same meeting, opening statements on the theme "Water" were made by Alhaji Mukhtar Shagari, Minister of Water Resources and President of the African Ministerial Council on Water (Nigeria); and David Kemp, Minister for Environment and Heritage (Australia).

183. At the same meeting, ministerial statements were made by Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Qatar) (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Francis Mahon Hayes, Ambassador, Department of Foreign Affairs (Ireland) (on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries); Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (New Zealand); David Anderson, Minister for Environment (Canada); Marina Silva, Minister of Environment (Brazil); Josef Pröll, Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (Austria); Motoo Hayashi, Senior Vice-Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Transport (Japan); Irina Osokina, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources (Russian Federation); Shannon Sorzano, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development (United States); Henri Djombo, Minister of the Economy, Forestry and the Environment (Congo); Dolores Arsenova, Minister of Environment and Water (Bulgaria); Witten T. Philippo, Minister in Assistance to the President (Marshall Islands); Elizabeth Thompson, Minister of Housing, Land and Environment (Barbados); Osman Pepe, Minister of Environment and Forestry (Turkey); and Jef Tavernier, Minister for Environment, Agriculture and Development Cooperation of the Flemish Region (Belgium).

184. At the 22nd meeting, on 30 April, Jan Pronk made an opening statement on the theme "Meeting basic needs in water, sanitation and human settlements, with a particular focus on Sanitation".

185. At the same meeting, ministerial statements were made by Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Ireland) (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro); Monyane Moleleki, Minister of Natural Resources (Lesotho); Serge Lepeltier, Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development (France); Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Minister for Water Resources (Bangladesh); Edward Lowasa, Minister for Water and Livestock Development (United Republic of Tanzania); José Eduardo Martins, Secretary of State for Environment (Portugal); Marcus Bethel, Minister of Health (Commonwealth of the Bahamas); Nabiel Makarim, Minister of Environment (Indonesia); Emile Doumba, Minister of Environment, Fishing and Forest (Gabon);

Olivio de Oliveira Dutra, Minister of Cities (Brazil); Raila Odinga, Minister of Roads, Public Works and Housing (Kenya); Pieter van Geel, State Secretary for Spatial Planning, Housing and the Environment (Netherlands); Humberto Huenchumilla, Minister of the General Secretariat of the Presidency (Chile); Vardan Ayvazian, Minister of Nature Protection (Armenia); Anaelisa Osorio, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Venezuela); José Barragan, Vice-Minister (Bolivia); Angèle Gnonsoa, Minister for the Environment (Côte d'Ivoire); Penelope Beckles, Minister of Public Utilities (Trinidad and Tobago); Viveka Bohn, Ambassador (Sweden); Francisco Mabjaia, Deputy-Minister for Environmental Affairs (Mozambique); Yousof Hojjat, Deputy Head, Department of Environment (Islamic Republic of Iran); Miroslav Nikcevic, Director of the Directorate for Environmental Protection (Serbia and Montenegro); Mohd. Radzi Abdul Rahman, Ambassador and Alternate Representative to the United Nations (Malaysia); Jamal Saghir, Director, Water and Energy Department (World Bank); and Frank Dewane (Holy See).

186. Also at the same meeting, Jan Pronk made concluding remarks.

187. At the 22nd meeting, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Hernando De Soto, President of the Institute of Liberty and Democracy, Peru, made opening statements on the theme "Meeting basic needs in water, sanitation and human settlements, with a particular focus on human settlements".

188. Also at the same meeting, ministerial statements were made by Olivio de Oliveira Dutra, Minister of Cities (Brazil); Yussef Hussein Kamal, Minister of Finance (Qatar) (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Ireland) (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro); Pradipto Ghosh, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (India); Serge Lepeltier, Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development (France); Kisim Kasanga, Minister of Environment and Science (Ghana); Erna Solberg, Minister of Local Authorities and Regional Development (Norway); Shannon Sorzano, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development (United States); Nabiel Makarim, Minister of Environment (Indonesia); Mohamed Elyazghi, Minister of Environment, Water and Territory Management (Morocco); Tahir Iqbal, Minister of State for Environment (Pakistan); Raila Odinga, Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing (Kenya); Mobolaji Osomo, Chief, Minister of Housing and Urban Development (Nigeria); Pieter van Geel, State Secretary for Spatial Planning, Housing and Environment (Netherlands); Seydou Sy Sall, Minister of Urbanization and Land Management (Senegal); Nompumelelo Nxumalo, Director-General, Department of Housing (South Africa); and Sylvia Masebo, Minister of Local Government and Housing (Zambia).

189. At its 23rd meeting on 30 April, the Commission also heard statements regarding the preparations for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States by the representative of Mauritius, as well as by the delegations of Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Ireland (on behalf of

the European Union), New Zealand, the United States, the Bahamas (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Barbados, Guyana, Dominica, Cape Verde, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

190. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the International Meeting also made a statement.

191. Also at the same meeting, on the theme "Water", ministerial statements were made by Fabian Valdivieso, Minister of Environment (Ecuador); Vardan Ayvazian, Minister of Nature Protection (Armenia); Fernando Tudela Abad, Vice-Minister of Environment (Mexico); Dean Peart, Minister of Land and Environment (Jamaica); Serge Lepeltier, Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development (France); Angèle Gnonsoa, Minister for the Environment (Côte d'Ivoire); Anaelisa Osorio, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Venezuela); Francisco Mabjaia, Deputy-Minister for Environmental Affairs (Mozambique); Višnja Jelić-Mück, State Secretary for Environment (Croatia); Adamantios Th. Vassilakis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations (Greece); Yashar Aliyev, Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Azerbaijan); Nira Lamay, Deputy Commissioner for Future Generations, Knesset (Parliament of Israel); Klara Novotna, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Slovakia); Bulat Bekniyazov, Secretary of the Council (Kazakhstan); and Mohammad Ayman Jarrar, Director, Regulatory Directorate, Palestinian Water Authority (Palestine).

192. At the same meeting, on 30 April, the Chairman introduced part two of his summary (see para. 195 below).

193. Also at the same meeting, the following delegations made comments on part two of the Chairman's summary: Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro), Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Marshall Islands, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Brazil, Senegal, South Africa, Indonesia, Japan and the United States.

194. At the same meeting, the major groups made a collective statement, which was read in the following order by youth, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, indigenous peoples, farmers, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, local authorities and women.

Chairman's summary

195. The Chairman's summary read as follows:

Part one
Review of thematic issues

Opening statements

1. The review of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation opened with a number of introductory statements, focusing on the thematic cluster for 2004-2005: water, sanitation and human settlements.

2. The Chairman of the Commission, Børge Brende, Minister of the Environment of Norway, emphasized that this was the Commission's first session under its new post-World Summit on Sustainable Development work programme and was the first "non-negotiating" session. The purpose of the session, as agreed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, was to take a hard, honest look at how we are doing, explore successes and failures and analyse the reasons why; to identify best practices, obstacles and constraints; and to discuss where and how we must strengthen our efforts. He linked achievement of the thematic targets with other crucial goals in the areas of poverty eradication, education, child mortality, health and environmental sustainability. The challenges are daunting but they can and must be met. He was sure the session would benefit from the Commission's tradition of taking an integrated approach to cross-cutting issues and involving major groups in interactive dialogues.

3. As honorary guest speaker, the Prince of Orange of the Kingdom of the Netherlands pointed out that water was the crucial factor in achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals and was linked to issues of human settlements, health, food and nutrition, sanitation, human rights, industrial processes, energy and environment. Integrated water resources management was therefore the key to success for reaching the targets of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and could also serve as a model for the other sectors to be addressed in the Commission's future work programme. Four key challenges were mentioned: increasing multidisciplinary knowledge exchange among a broad range of specialists; improving legislation; capacity-building for those involved in implementation; and mobilizing new sources of investment for the water sector. The success of this session would be measured next year, when a blueprint for a better, more equitable global environment with respect to water, sanitation and human settlements should be agreed. We must keep in mind: No water, no future.

4. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs introduced the reports of the Secretary-General on water, sanitation and human settlements and briefly summarized their findings. He noted that while some progress has been achieved in meeting the internationally-agreed goals and targets in these areas such gains varied among regions and that major challenges remain. A lack of political will at both international and national levels had hampered progress, notably in resource mobilization, tariff and subsidy reform, and enforcement of water pollution laws and regulations. He also cited a serious underinvestment in rural infrastructure, in particular for sanitation, and called for additional financial resources to meet the costs of achieving the 2005 and 2015 targets. He stressed the importance of ensuring

affordability of water, sanitation and shelter to the poor. He estimated that, even with the lowest-cost solutions, halving the number of people without access to clean drinking water and sanitation would require about $33 billion annually, roughly double the current rate of investment. Provision for municipal wastewater treatment would require a tripling of current spending, to approximately $50 billion a year.

5. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) addressed implementation, regionalization and partnerships and highlighted the importance of monitoring and assessment. He welcomed the Commission's decision at its eleventh session to start the multi-year programme of work with the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements. These issues are addressed under goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, but they are also closely linked to other goals such as eradicating poverty, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality and combating malaria and other diseases. He also emphasized the importance of partnerships and the Commission's partnership fair as a showcase for success stories and information exchange. He stated that the Jeju Initiative and other outcomes of the recent eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum of UNEP could contribute to the Commission's discussions, as they considered the environmental aspects of water, sanitation and human settlements. Preparatory work for the 10-year review meeting on small island developing States was another important element of the Commission's agenda that UNEP supported.

6. The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) stated that the core concern expressed in the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was to bring the vast majority of the world's population out of a poverty trap. She highlighted the linkages between the water goals and other Millennium Development Goals, including target 11 of Goal 7, concerning improvement of the lives of slum dwellers. She stressed the need for commitment from policy makers, in particular, to prioritize water, sanitation and slum upgrading in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and poverty reduction strategy papers at the country level. She also highlighted the importance of recognizing water as a right and one of the most fundamental conditions for survival. Lastly, she pointed out the present huge financial gap in addressing water, sanitation and slum upgrading, which would require close partnership between United Nations agencies and international financial institutions to supplement domestic resources. She expressed her wish that the Commission could become a global springboard for local action.

7. The Associate Administrator of UNDP expressed his appreciation for the strong focus on implementation. He indicated that the existence of well-functioning institutions and relevant legislation was a precondition for improving access for the poor to clean water and basic sanitation. Appropriate technologies were available to achieve internationally agreed goals on water and sanitation, but there was a lack of political commitment and financial resources to implement these. Stakeholder participation, capacity-building, knowledge management, good governance and information sharing, as well as partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society organizations were crucial. He called for the integrated implementation,

monitoring and reporting of the Millennium Development Goals and the targets of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Reports on intersessional events

8. Following the introductory statements, a number of delegations reported on the outcomes of seven intersessional events held in preparation for the Commission's twelfth session.

9. The representative of Morocco reported on the outcome of the International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 16 to 19 June 2003. The Expert Meeting emphasized the need to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development into strategies and programmes for sustainable production and consumption. The meeting launched the Marrakesh Process, recognizing the importance of international cooperation towards promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. The conclusions of the meeting are contained in document E/CN.17/2004/11.

10. The Ambassador of Tajikistan reported on the outcome of the International Freshwater Forum, held in Dushanbe, from 29 August to 1 September 2003. With the aim of achieving the water targets set out in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and reducing poverty, Participants at the Forum focused on sustainable water resource management, including strengthening water partnerships, developing economic mechanisms for water usage and choosing optimal technologies for water conservation. Water management for transboundary water courses was also discussed. The outcome of the Forum is contained in document A/58/362, which served as a basis for General Assembly resolution A/58/217 entitled "International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015".

11. The representative of Turkey reported on the Workshop on Governance for World Summit on Sustainable Development Implementation in Countries with Economies in Transition, held in Istanbul from 16 to 18 September 2003. The recommendations of the Workshop addressed the need to raise awareness on the part of major groups on sustainable development, to provide incentives for the protection of environment, to increase transparency in decision making, to engage civil society in the implementation process at all levels and to establish partnerships involving Governments, civil society and the private sector to implement the commitments made in Johannesburg and at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The report of the meeting is contained in document E/CN.17/2004/13.

12. The Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway reported on the International Conference, "Water for the Poorest", held in Stavanger, Norway, on 4 and 5 November 2003. The key messages from the Conference were: the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation were achievable; national governments have the main, but not the sole, responsibility for the achievement of the goals; people have the right to safe water supplies to satisfy their basic needs at a price they can afford; and that while halving the proportion of the poor by 2015 is an internationally agreed priority, the remaining half are equally important. The

recommendations of the Conference were: to improve water governance; to increase financing for water infrastructure; to ensure targeted financing schemes for the poorest; and to support empowerment and capacity-building.

13. The Under-Secretary for Regional Affairs of Italy reported on the outcome of the International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development, held in Rome from 4 to 6 March 2004. The Forum focused on results achieved and on lessons for the future on major issues of sustainable development, ranging from protection and conservation of water resources to oceans and small island developing States. The Forum recognized that traditional approaches to funding sustainable development were now mixed with new approaches, and partners were encouraged to mobilize resources from all sources, including official development assistance (ODA), other development assistance and private sources. The Forum also recognized that the public sector should facilitate and strengthen local capacities and, to this end, should develop appropriate legal frameworks, increase transparency and affordability and encourage private sector participation.

14. The Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations reported on the United Nations Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum: Sustainable Development for Cities, held in Hong Kong, China, on 25 and 26 February 2004. The Forum discussed numerous issues, including economic growth, job creation, infrastructure, urban housing and land use, meeting basic social needs, improving mobility and sustainable tourism. The Forum adopted the Hong Kong Declaration on Sustainable Development for Cities. The Forum emphasized that each city should develop its own strategies, policies and measures for economic development and ecological and environmental protection. The Forum also highlighted the importance of public education and public health for sustainable development.

15. The President of the UNEP Governing Council, the Minister of State in charge of the Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania, reported on the eighth special session of the UNEP Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from 29 to 31 March 2004, and the "Jeju Initiative" on water, sanitation and human settlements from the perspective of the environment and poverty eradication. The Jeju Initiative emphasized that integrated water resources management should incorporate an ecosystem approach to meet the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development targets. It also emphasized that water and sanitation problems could not be addressed in isolation and that environmentally sustainable sanitation services required eco-technology and appropriate waste water treatment systems. These issues were also considered relevant to the question of human settlements. The meeting also adopted a number of decisions, in particular on waste management, small island developing States and international environmental governance.

16. Following these introductory statements, the Commission held an interactive discussion, including general statements and the general overview of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Overall review

Overall review of progress

17. In their statements on the overall review of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, speakers supported many of the conclusions contained in the reports of the Secretary-General. Many delegations expressed appreciation for the well balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development in the Secretary-General's reports. While progress has been achieved in some areas and in some regions in the short period since the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the challenges facing developing countries in particular are still immense. Efforts to date are still far below what is needed to reach the Millennium Development Goals and the goals and targets agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

18. Many delegations expressed satisfaction that water, sanitation and human settlements were being addressed during this first cycle of the Commission in its new work programme after the World Summit on Sustainable Development as these three themes are crucial in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the goals set in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and, in particular, for combating poverty.

19. Participants noted that the persistence of poverty continues to hinder efforts to achieve sustainable development. Poverty as a cross-cutting issue must be addressed in an integrated manner, incorporating the issues of water, sanitation and human settlements. Some delegations and major groups expressed concern that, in certain regions, poverty levels have increased in recent years. Food insecurity and undernutrition, especially in these regions, was a continuing problem. The impact of HIV/AIDS was also of tremendous concern.

20. The majority of countries, developed and developing, cited the lack of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity as the major challenges and constraints for developing countries in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Developing countries saw the shortfall in financial resources largely as a result of the failure of the international community to fulfil its commitments in the area of means of implementation, including the Monterrey commitments. For the least developed countries, in particular, ODA flows need to be increased and made more effective. Some delegations pointed out the importance of raising capital in local markets. One major group indicated that there was sufficiently mature science and technology available to combat poverty. Some delegations stressed the importance of advances in science and technology for achieving the long-term goals of sustainable development.

21. Concern was expressed that there had been no progress on market access for agricultural products nor on the reduction of agricultural tariffs and subsidies. The importance of trade liberalization was highlighted as was the fact that increasing global trade as well as fair trade initiatives were creating new opportunities.

22. Developing countries called on the international community to support their efforts to improve the infrastructure needed to provide water, sanitation and shelter to their citizens, both in rural and urban areas. Technical and financial support was also needed to deal with the adverse impacts of natural disasters and to develop sustainable waste management capabilities. Increasing land degradation also contributed to these problems. South-South cooperation and sharing of best (and worst) practices in these areas were also emphasized by a few participants.

23. Several delegations as well as major groups highlighted the importance of decentralizing decision-making processes and shifting attention from global to local levels. For this purpose there is a need to reinforce the capacities of local authorities and communities, including through education and training opportunities.

24. Several delegations noted that their national sustainable development strategies were serving as the basic policy framework for the implementation of World Summit on Sustainable Development targets. Delegations recalled the commitment made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that countries initiate the process of implementing national sustainable development strategies by 2005, and called on developed countries to take the lead in meeting the commitment,

25. A number of countries emphasized the importance of reducing commercial and political risks, particularly in developing countries, and establishing an enabling environment and good governance in order to attract additional finance, especially foreign direct investment. Many other delegations emphasized that governance at all levels, including at the international level, should be given due consideration. The use of innovative financial mechanisms for risk sharing mechanisms was suggested. Some delegations supported a market approach as a good mechanism for allocating resources and attracting private investment. A few delegations and a major group noted that there was increasing interest on the part of large companies in adopting corporate policies reflecting social responsibility.

26. According to several countries and representatives of major groups, gender equality should be integrated into all aspects of the Commission's review process. The heavy burden that women bear in collecting water and fuelwood, their crucial role in family hygiene and health and the particular role they play in ensuring sustainable development was highlighted by a number of speakers. The key role of stakeholders, including all the major groups, was also highlighted.

27. Continued work on formulating a 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, was also urged by a number of countries. Sustainable consumption and production was stressed as particularly important for the themes of the current cycle of the Commission as well as those of the next cycle. Many delegations noted the importance of adequately addressing the cross-cutting issues, such as poverty eradication, means of implementation and changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

28. Another cross-cutting issue identified as requiring particular attention is Africa, which lags behind in the implementation of the three goals under review. Many delegations called for support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development initiative, the sustainable development framework for Africa. The particular problems of least developed countries and land-locked developing countries were also referred to.

29. Small island developing States were highlighted as a special concern by many, as the Commission was conducting the preparatory work for the Mauritius review meeting in August and September 2004. For many small island developing States, for which tourism was the major source of revenue, sustainable development of tourism was identified as a priority.

30. Progress regarding multilateral environmental agreements, including the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, was noted. Some delegations emphasized the importance of agreements such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Concern was also expressed that the Kyoto Protocol had not yet entered into force.

31. The linkages between clean water, sanitation and health were stressed by several delegations and major groups, and the significance of the United Nations International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, was highlighted. Several delegations noted the importance of effective global monitoring systems for meeting the internationally agreed goals related to the environment.

32. In welcoming the new multi-year work programme for the Commission and its focus on implementation, speakers generally expressed their full commitment to the innovative process underway. Many delegations also stressed the important catalytic role that the Commission plays in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Developing countries, in particular, emphasized the primary role of the Commission for Sustainable Development in monitoring the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan, highlighting it as a unique intergovernmental framework to advance the implementation of Agenda 21 and other international commitments. They expressed their strong view that new elements must not be brought into the discussions that go beyond what was agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan. Developing countries emphasized the need to maintain the balance of the three pillars of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental, in the current and future work of the Commission. Several delegations also stressed the importance of involving the entire United Nations system in the Commission's efforts and called for enhanced interagency coordination to assist countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

33. Participants noted that the outcome of this review session would be a Chairman's summary focusing on obstacles, constraints and challenges, as well as best practices, in accordance with the decisions of the Commission at its eleventh session. This was not the year for policy interpretation. In underlining the focus of the current cycle on water, sanitation and human settlements, developing countries stated that all three themes should be considered as

equally important. A number of delegations looked forward to the final output from the policy session next year, at the thirteenth session of the Commission, initiating a series of structured actions leading to the achievement of the relevant targets, which should also provide a significant input to the General Assembly's major event in 2005 to review implementation of the Millennium Declaration and other internationally agreed development goals.

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

34. There was wide agreement on the importance of collective and cooperative work among United Nations agencies to implement the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation commitments at the global, regional, subregional and field levels, based on their mandates and comparative advantages. Such cooperation should help to avoid inter-agency duplication while ensuring synergies and complementarities and enhancing capacity-building in developing countries. Modalities of involving non-United Nations actors need to be carefully worked out.

35. The importance of having inter-agency work on sustainable development derive from and closely follow the intergovernmental mandates reflected in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and, broadly, the Millennium Development Goals was noted by a number of delegations. The Johannesburg Plan clearly identified areas where inter-agency cooperation and coordination are needed. Delegations also noted the importance of coordinating such work with the international financial institutions. In future it would be important to report on interagency activities in the areas under review. The critical role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in monitoring the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan needs to be highlighted in addition to the role of other agencies that also have mandates given by their respective governing bodies. Several delegations emphasized that the work of the coordination bodies on sustainable development under the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination should be aligned with the work programme of the Commission as adopted at its eleventh session. The specific examples of sanitation and human settlements as well as cross-cutting issues were cited.

36. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination is in the process of creating coordinating mechanisms, as explained by the Secretariat, but has not yet finalized specific work programmes. The views expressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session will help guide the formulation of such work programmes.

National reporting

37. While recognizing its voluntary nature, some delegations stressed the importance of national reports (and indicators) in monitoring implementation. Some shared the view expressed in the Secretary-General's reports that a greater response would be useful in order to know "where we stand and where we are going". They noted that the lack of coherent information constitutes a major obstacle for the implementation of sustainable development. The national reporting framework needs to be carefully developed so as to augment

the value of national reporting as an input to the reports of the Secretary-General.

38. There was general support for continuous work towards streamlining within the United Nations system requests for national reporting and making more effective use of national reports, while lessening the burden on Member States. Some delegations noted that inter-agency cooperation could be further enhanced to contribute to this end. The pilot exercise of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a single, integrated country report was noted with interest.

Indicators

39. Many delegations emphasized the lack of basic data and statistics, both qualitative and quantitative, and considered this as the most fundamental challenge to the development of indicators. Others noted that developing and using indicators of sustainable development should be tailored to national conditions and priorities.

40. The need for more training and methodological guidance to develop and implement country-level indicators was stressed and, in this context, it was noted that greater cooperation should be encouraged among United Nations agencies at the regional level. There was a suggestion that an inventory of national-level efforts in the development and implementation of indicators be prepared to promote exchange of experiences. Another delegation proposed that timetables be established for monitoring progress in implementation.

41. The importance of having a coherent and consistent system of information for national decision-making throughout the ministries of government was stressed. Information, statistics and indicators are considered important decision-making tools, but have only been used to a limited extent to date.

42. More efforts at the country level are required to collect gender-disaggregated data in order to develop gender-related indicators. This was strongly supported by the major groups.

43. It was noted that the use of indicators of sustainable development to monitor the implementation of national sustainable development strategies should be promoted. The view was expressed that the lack of a clear vision on sustainable development at the national level has been part of the challenge in making progress in this regard.

Partnerships

44. There was general support for the view that partnerships for sustainable development can make a contribution to implementation of internationally agreed goals of sustainable development, however, the importance of achieving concrete results was underlined. Some delegations noted their positive experience with partnerships. A number of delegations emphasized that partnerships for sustainable development should complement but not replace the crucial role and responsibility of Governments in implementation.

45. Developing countries, referring to the data in the report of the Secretary-General on partnerships for sustainable development (E/CN.17/2004/16), noted that funding for partnerships was coming mainly from Governments and emphasized the need for mobilization of new resources for funding of partnerships. Concern was expressed that, to date, partnership initiatives had not brought needed additional resources to the implementation challenge. The view was expressed that greater private-sector involvement was needed in partnerships for sustainable development. Also mentioned was the usefulness of assessing the level of involvement of the United Nations agencies in the partnerships, including the level of funding. It was noted that partnerships have so far been generally "donor-driven" and the need for more "demand-driven" partnerships was thus underlined. The view was expressed that the supply of partnerships did not meet the demand, and there was a need for better geographical as well as thematic distribution of partnerships. Efforts should be made to fill the gap in "underrepresented" areas such as biotechnology and desertification.

46. Some delegations expressed concern that partnerships had been slow to take off, while others maintained that it was too early to draw such conclusions. It was noted that there were both successful and unsuccessful partnerships and there is a need to learn from both successes and failures to understand better the ingredients of a successful partnership. Lessons learned from one country's experience with partnerships included the following: building partnerships requires time and patience to define basic objectives and build trust; true partnerships involve shared definition of problems and joint design of solutions; comprehensive and clear communication is essential; and that flexibility is vital. Some ingredients of successful partnerships were also cited.

47. It was suggested that future reports would benefit from the addition of a qualitative review of the concrete impact of partnerships for sustainable development in relation to specific targets set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The view was expressed that the Partnerships Fair has been very valuable for its awareness raising and the concrete examples of implementation and lessons learned. The need for transparent, participatory and credible information on partnerships registered with the Commission was noted and in this regard, the web-enabled Commission on Sustainable Development partnerships database was welcomed. The view was expressed that tools were needed to further help monitor and encourage partnerships at a country-level.

Interactive discussion with major groups

48. The Commission devoted a morning to an interactive discussion among major groups and Governments on the issue of major groups' contributions in the thematic areas of water, sanitation and human settlements, including cross-cutting issues.[a] The nine major groups were called upon to present key aspects outlined in their discussion papers and report on their results-oriented

[a] The obstacles, constraints, lessons learned and continuing challenges, identified by major groups on the thematic areas are included in the relevant sections of the present summary.

activities concerning implementation. They also presented case studies and best practices to illustrate both progress and lessons learned.

49. The discussion revolved around issues of: gender mainstreaming; privatization; pros and cons of partnership initiatives in water resources management within the context of governance, participation and finance; water ethics and cultural values; decentralization of decision-making processes including local leadership; and scientific, institutional and human resources capacity-building, knowledge sharing and education. Overall, most major groups stressed the value of an integrated, human rights-based approach to water, sanitation and human settlements and emphasized that the inclusion of all stakeholders in participatory and transparent decision-making processes is essential if relevant goals and targets are to be achieved. They also stressed the importance of legal frameworks and social development. One major group highlighted the value of using the ecosystems approach to improve management of water resources.

Gender mainstreaming

50. Positive examples of women's empowerment included the case of a women's water network in the South Asia region that succeeded in increasing representation of women in all decision-making levels in water resources planning and management by 50 per cent, and the case of an African country's use of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women to link the elimination of discrimination with expansion of constitutional guarantees on equal access to land and other natural resources. There was agreement among major group representatives and delegations that gender mainstreaming in the formulation and implementation of water resources and sanitation policies at all levels is essential to success in implementation. It was noted that improved use of gender-disaggregated data is needed to accurately assess progress, and incorporation of women's perspectives in the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation was urged.

Partnerships

51. The social dimension of sustainable development was highlighted in discussions on the shared responsibility of implementation through partnerships. Several affirmed that clear-cut corporate social responsibility principles and adherence to the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) would strengthen partnerships among industry and other societal groups. Others pointed to the need for a more precise definition, clear criteria for, and monitoring of partnerships, in particular since the World Summit on Sustainable Development endorsed partnerships as a supplement for sustainable development cooperation.

Means of implementation

52. Support was expressed for the increased use of economic instruments for efficient water allocation and improved access to water, and positive examples with water audits and water accounting in the European region were noted. Several case studies from the Africa region were cited as positive examples of

socially balanced privatization. A number of major groups expressed the view that water should not be treated solely as an economic commodity. They stressed the social dimension, particularly water as a fundamental right, and emphasized that guaranteed access to water by the poor and disadvantaged in an affordable way would require sufficient financial and human resources, as well as regulatory legal frameworks and government ownership of water resources. It was pointed out that in some countries the State has responsibility for ensuring access to water. Devolution of authority to the local level might provide several advantages. One delegation noted that its national legislation provided for permanent water access and land entitlements to its indigenous populations. The lack of clear international leadership guiding the debate on rules for privatization of water resources management was highlighted by some major groups as a challenge.

53. Some major groups identified the need for new financial resources for local communities, as well as reallocation of existing resources, to implement their sustainable development projects and processes.

Governance and stakeholder involvement

54. Most major groups and some delegations agreed that decentralization of decision-making processes in water resources management, accompanied by comprehensive stakeholder involvement and democratization of participation at all levels, is a prerequisite for successful implementation of water resources policies. Several delegations supported this view by sharing positive experiences with various models of community participation and involvement of youth groups committed to water quality monitoring, as well as national policies on stakeholder participation with local and indigenous communities. The conclusions on participatory approaches found in the report of the World Commission on Dams were praised by some major groups as a successful model for community empowerment in international, national and water-basin decision-making on water issues.

Capacity-building

55. The need to pursue an interdisciplinary approach to finding solutions to the complexity of water and sanitation as well as human settlements problems was stressed by most participants. Many delegations and major groups agreed on the value of supporting youth participation in awareness-raising campaigns, capacity-building and in government delegations. There was strong support for the view that capacity-building, education and awareness-raising efforts must be increased to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation. Some participants highlighted the paucity of resources in developing countries committed to research and development, including for industrial research. Others noted a decrease of monitoring capacities at the national and international level on water resources at a time when more reliable data is needed. Regarding the sharing of knowledge and technology transfer given differing social and economic conditions among countries, many speakers recognized that a clear differentiation and categorization of needs and possible solutions for each would be required to achieve implementation goals.

Water

Review of progress

56. The Commission reviewed progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with regard to freshwater development and management. Delegations generally supported the conclusions contained in the Secretary-General's report on freshwater management.

Drinking-water supply

57. There was general agreement on the importance of access to safe water for poverty alleviation and for meeting other Millennium Development Goals. Delegations noted that while substantial progress has been made in expanding access to safe drinking water, progress varies greatly between countries and between rural and urban areas within countries. If progress continues at the current rate, many countries will fail to meet the goals. The poorest countries have the lowest rates of access, and many of the countries that are not on track to meet the targets will require increased external support. The Goal can only be met if efforts are scaled up. Delegations shared the view that poverty reduction would not be achieved without improving water services to poor people. It was stressed that countries should ensure the inclusion of their water agenda in their poverty reduction strategy papers and other national development strategies.

58. In some countries with economies in transition, the water and sanitation infrastructure is collapsing and in serious disrepair because of deferred operation and maintenance. The delegations of some small island developing States noted that providing adequate water and sanitation has been hampered by the lack of trained staff, basic data and information, as well as inadequate funds to upgrade or rehabilitate deteriorating infrastructure.

Decentralization of services

59. Several countries emphasized the importance of decentralizing water supply services and of improved operation and maintenance of water supply systems as conditions for long-term sustainability of water sector investments. Some delegations stressed the principle that decisions should be taken at the lowest appropriate level and that the involvement of local communities and municipalities is a means of raising awareness and creating local ownership among beneficiaries. Many delegations shared the view that transferring responsibility to the local level could strengthen water sector governance, but a number emphasized that the limited institutional capacity of local governments and limited command over financial resources would need to be adequately addressed. An important lesson from the experiences of federally structured countries was that clear mandates and decision-making focal points are indispensable for successful policy and institutional reforms.

Partnerships and private sector involvement

60. Some delegations, particularly from developed countries, stressed the importance of public-private partnerships for mobilizing investment finance,

technical and managerial expertise. Other delegations, particularly from developing countries, called for caution concerning such partnerships. Some expressed concern that partnerships were being promoted to cover a lack of political commitment by Governments. While many delegations recognized the emerging role of public-private partnerships in the water sector as a means to generate additional funding, it was noted that in the partnerships surveyed in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/2004/16) private partners have thus far contributed only a small share of total funding. Other delegations and major groups expressed the view that it is not in financing that the private sector would make a major contribution, but in providing managerial skills, technical support and technology transfer. Many delegations called for further study and dissemination of information on successes and failures of partnerships, and for a transparent accounting of total resource mobilization and the uses to which funds are put.

61. Some delegations emphasized that enabling environments in terms of policy and regulatory frameworks were a key challenge to encourage private sector investors. It was noted that encouraging private investment does not mean privatizing water. There was widespread agreement, including from the business sector, that it was up to communities to decide to what degree and in what way they want to involve the private sector in the provision of public services. It was noted that, given the complex and difficult process of negotiating effective public-private arrangements, local authorities may need capacity-building assistance in this area, among others. Some delegations expressed the view that it was too early to conclude that partnerships are not working.

Integrated water resources management

62. While reviewing progress in the preparation of water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, delegations generally reaffirmed their commitment to integrated water resources management as an appropriate holistic approach and guiding principle for implementing water sector reforms and balancing water use among competing uses, including ecosystem services. A widely shared view was that integrated water resources management should be considered as a process leading to sustainable development and management of water resources with active stakeholder involvement and participation. Several countries noted that there is no single generally agreed approach to integrated water resources management, and that different countries are at different stages of the process. Considering the progress that has been made to date in developing strategies and legal frameworks for water management, a considerable number of countries are expected to meet the 2005 target. However, a number of developing countries indicated the need for further technical assistance to achieve the target. Several delegations noted a need for more refined indicators to determine trends and progress in this area, while emphasizing that the Commission's work should not go beyond the scope of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

63. Some delegations considered integrated water resources management to be a development goal related to poverty alleviation, and thus to be included in poverty reduction strategy papers. This could be done through the health

chapter of the papers, given the water-health nexus. Some delegations expressed the view that the social and economic costs of not achieving the water-related targets provided the necessary rationale for assigning high priority to water in national development agendas. Others pointed to the difficult tradeoffs Governments face, particularly in Africa, as they struggle to address the heavy costs of treating and caring for those suffering from HIV/AIDS while maintaining other basic services.

64. Delegations from disaster-prone countries highlighted the interactions among climate change patterns, water supplies, forests and agriculture, and the limited understanding of those interactions as a constraint on effective strategies for long-term water management. Some delegations suggested that there was a need for improved access to research and data in this field, others called for greater use of scientific and educational tools for capacity building and mainstreaming holistic concepts such as integrated water resources management. It was also noted that there was a need for a comprehensive approach to natural disasters, addressing preparedness, management and recovery.

65. Some delegations stressed that strengthening international river basin management at all levels based on existing legal instruments and pragmatic measures and programmes was an important avenue for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Other delegations noted the need for progress in international law for the efficient management of international watercourses to promote peace and development. The view was expressed that bilateral agreements for dealing with international waters were preferable to the notion of international river basin management at all levels.

Water as a social and/or economic good

66. Several delegations and major groups stressed the need for pro-poor cost recovery policies and targeted water subsidies to extend coverage to the unserved poor. Some countries supported the view that the costs of providing water supply services, water infrastructure and wastewater disposal should be borne by users through general tax revenues and/or user tariffs. Other delegations considered water as a basic human right and were against treating it as an economic good and charging for its use. It was also pointed out that while water in nature may be free, bringing safe water to users requires investments that must be paid for. Some delegations distinguished between water for basic human needs and water for economic uses, supporting a socially balanced pricing scheme that addressed the economic and social dimensions of water together.

Balancing competing uses

67. It was noted that after meeting basic needs, the major competition for water was between agricultural use and environmental requirements. It was noted that healthy ecosystems are a prerequisite for clean water and that the value of ecosystems has to be appreciated in the planning process. Since agriculture, forests and the environment all provide important services and contribute to poverty reduction in their own ways, balanced and judicious allocation between them is required. Many participants shared their

experiences in using various policy options, demand management measures, and technological solutions in balancing competing demands.

Water resources management units

68. The issue of the basic unit for water management was the subject of lively discussion, and there was no agreement as to whether a "basin approach" or "ecosystems approach" was best. Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 calls for integrated water resources management at the level of catchment basin or sub-basin. Many countries have been undertaking water management reforms using this approach and have demonstrated its usefulness, and have established river basin committees and organizations. Other delegations expressed the view that using the ecosystems approach to integrated water resources management had led to better management of water resources. Some countries referred to their comparatively advanced environmental legislation today as the end result of long experience with industrialization and intensive agriculture and the often disastrous consequences for water quantity and quality, health and the environment. Both approaches call for active stakeholder participation and are useful for avoiding water-related disasters, including floods and droughts.

Policies, laws and institutions

69. Many delegations and major groups emphasized the need to design and adopt water policies and reforms to make the use and governance of water resources more effective and sustainable, contributing to pro-poor development. A number of delegations mentioned innovative reforms undertaken by their countries to ensure equitable and sustainable provision and distribution of water, including institutional reforms (separation of policy and regulatory functions from resource development and management functions), legislation to protect water resources, and pro-poor water management policies. Empowerment of the poor and broad public participation was also held up as a key to success.

Financing water-sector needs

70. Inadequate financial resources were cited by many delegations as the major obstacle to meeting the internationally agreed goals and targets. The majority of poor people live in rural areas, and attracting finance to rural areas, particularly from the private sector, has proven difficult. Many delegations stated that water services for the poor should be supported through transparent and targeted subsidies, including cross subsidies, and that developing countries would need continuing external assistance. Many delegations agreed that ODA grants should be used to support national efforts to create an enabling environment and to support programmes targeted at financing safe drinking water for the poorest, while loans and cost-recovery instruments were more appropriate for financing economic uses of water.

71. Some delegations called for implementation of the commitments made at the International Conference on Financing for Development, which could make an important contribution to overcoming financial constraints. It was noted by some delegations that ODA in the water sector could be more productive if directed to programme budget support and a sectorwide approach rather than

to specific projects. It was noted that countries could use economic instruments such as tax incentives to encourage investment by domestic companies rather than relying solely on foreign firms. The need for better donor coordination was stressed, particularly at country level. Positive examples were mentioned that this can reduce transaction costs and enhance sustainability.

72. A number of delegations highlighted the need for exploring multiple avenues of financial resource mobilization nationally and internationally, including partial loan guarantees, revolving funds, and microcredit schemes. Some distinguished among three approaches: raising private capital for public utilities; seeking private sector involvement in operation and maintenance; and transferring ownership out of the public sector. The limits of private financing for the water sector first need to be tested in order to be able to gauge better the magnitude of ODA requirements. It was also noted that the complex administrative requirements of some international lending agencies, combined with limited technical capacities in recipient countries to meet the requirements, discouraged countries from using those sources.

Capacity-building

73. There was general agreement that capacity-building for national and local institutions, notably for staff of local water authorities, was vital for ensuring sustainability of water supply systems, and thus for meeting the international goals and targets. One major group mentioned that capacity in science and technology to address the problems of freshwater remains woefully inadequate because of extremely low levels of funding for research and extension. Most delegations viewed capacity-building as a continuous challenge because of the dynamic nature of the water sector. Another major group called for improving the working environment in the water sector. The interrelationship of agricultural and food policies with water resources management and the mutual interdependence of those policies with trade policies was highlighted by a number of delegations, who noted that unfavourable trade policies restrained investments in improved water resources management. Addressing such issues and making sound choices require careful analysis, for which many countries lack capacities. Several participants noted the need for scientific and educational tools for capacity-building.

Technology transfer

74. Many delegations stressed the importance of appropriate low-cost technologies for meeting the Millennium Development Goals and the need for transferring innovative technological solutions from developed to developing countries. The reuse of treated wastewater for agricultural purposes (irrigation), including the use in household gardens, and household use (flushing toilets) was supported by many participants as a technological solution for a more efficient use of water. Rainwater harvesting was mentioned as another option for water-scarce countries, as was desalination of saltwater, at least for those who could afford it. It was noted that civil society can play an important role in mobilizing local communities to participate in water governance structures and in the implementation of innovative low-cost technical solutions.

Gender mainstreaming

75. It was generally recognized that women bear most of the burden of securing water supplies for household needs and have an important role in water resources management. Their role as "active water managers" and agents of change includes a broad range of daily tasks that benefit the whole community, such as hygiene education, provision of water, monitoring and maintenance of water infrastructure, and conservation. One major group called for changing conventional thinking in favour of recognizing women as active citizens with full rights, including land tenure rights and equal access to credit for business.

Constraints and obstacles

76. Many developed countries supported the view that lack of reforms and good governance, together with inadequate funding and inefficient use of available financial resources, are the critical factors impeding progress. However, a number of developing countries stated that they had demonstrated political will through concrete actions in terms of policy and institutional reforms, but limited means of implementation including finance and technology have constrained their abilities to make progress. They emphasized that both ODA and private sector investment in the water sector have been declining, and domestic resource mobilization policies remain weak.

77. Other constraints on water sector development include fragmented institutional structures, limited technical capacities, and inadequate policy frameworks. Low levels of community involvement and empowerment in water resources management and governance were also widely noted, although more participatory processes are gradually progressing in many countries.

78. Many countries noted the lack of reliable and easily accessible data on water resources as a major obstacle to meaningful reform efforts and to assessment of needs, demands and supplies. The need for improved international cooperation was stressed, including through the United Nations system, for strengthening information systems and developing capacity-building tools. The importance of strengthening databases and developing performance indicators for measuring progress on goals and targets was also stressed.

79. Water demand management was acknowledged as a promising solution for bridging the growing gap between water supply and demand by using easily available and well-established technologies. It was also noted that demand management to change the water-use behaviour of households and enterprises is a long-term process, and Governments often opt for short-term solutions to increase water supply. A large amount of water is wasted because of poor operation and maintenance of water infrastructure, resulting in revenue loss. Furthermore, weak enforcement of demand management measures and limited public awareness further inhibit water management efforts.

Lessons learned

80. Participants identified a number of lessons learned relating to expanding access to safe drinking water and integrated water resources management:

(a) Meeting the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals is crucial to achieving progress towards poverty reduction and towards a number of other Millennium Development Goals, for example, on infant mortality, gender equality and education. Development of the water sector therefore needs to be integrated into the poverty reduction strategy papers process and national sustainable development plans;

(b) Providing water and sanitation services to unserved people is a shared responsibility. The challenge is too big to be met by any party alone, but Governments have a primary responsibility to create a framework that ensures affordable access. Governments will need strong political will and commitment if the challenges are to be addressed;

(c) A flexible approach, with simultaneous and complementary actions on all fronts (technical, institutional, financial) and "learning by doing", would not only facilitate progress but would help countries define their priorities and seek support for means of implementation;

(d) Partnerships do not free Governments from their responsibilities and should be sought not only for funding purposes, but also for sharing technical knowledge, technology transfer and managerial skills;

(e) Promoting private sector participation should be based on corporate social responsibility. Strong regulatory frameworks have helped to attract private sector investment and to ensure consistency of their practices with social policy objectives;

(f) Integrated water resources management, with strong stakeholder participation, was considered a useful concept for developing and promoting more sustainable patterns of water consumption and production.

Continuing challenges

81. There was general agreement among delegations on the huge needs and challenges ahead, particularly with respect to finance, technology, and institutional capacity-building. Participants identified a number of continuing challenges relating to expanding access to safe drinking water and integrated water resources management:

(a) Scaling up of efforts is needed on all fronts to reach the international goals and targets, with a focus on service delivery, for which infrastructure development plays an indispensable role, as does effective water sector management;

(b) Improved regulatory frameworks and effective enforcement mechanisms are critical to protect water resources from pollution and minimize threats to human health and ecosystems, as well as to overcome water scarcity;

(c) Effective local governance and empowerment are essential to extend access to safe drinking water, with the active participation of major groups and women, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Local and traditional knowledge also needs to be more effectively tapped. Local communities including indigenous people can often provide low-cost solutions that are more sustainable in the long run;

(d) The role of women in water policy-making, planning and decision-making needs to be enhanced;

(e) Science and technology have not been fully harnessed. In particular, linkages between science and farmers should be strengthened to improve water management. There is a need to bridge the North-South gap in technological and scientific research and to promote the transfer of knowledge;

(f) Innovative resource mobilization approaches, such as debt-swap arrangements, taxes on pollution, loan guarantees and other means of financial leveraging, strengthening of sub-sovereign capacity to access domestic capital markets, as well as general budgetary support rather than project-based support, could help to overcome financial constraints;

(g) Strengthened international cooperation is required on water, including more coordinated work by UN agencies and international financial institutions in delivering country level support to meet the above challenges.

Sanitation

Review of progress

82. The Commission reviewed progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with regard to sanitation. Delegations generally supported the conclusions contained in the Secretary-General's report on sanitation and noted with appreciation that sanitation was for the first time being considered as a specific item on the agenda by an intergovernmental body such as the Commission on Sustainable Development.

83. Many delegations called for a more integrated approach to water, sanitation and human settlements, including integrated water resource management and efficiency plans at the national and local levels. Most delegations noted that access to sanitation facilities is an issue of critical concern, especially for women. Several delegations stated that their countries had a national sanitation policy. It was also stressed that the provision of sanitation had significant health benefits, leading to a decline in disease and improvement of health indicators. Many delegations expressed the view that water supply, sanitation and health are interlinked and must be addressed in a holistic manner. The view was also expressed that water and sanitation should be addressed in an integrated manner with human settlements, in particular as accessible and affordable sanitation services are crucial to improving the lives of slum dwellers.

84. Many speakers felt that the target of halving the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015 would not be met, either in rural or urban areas, unless substantial additional resources were raised. It was also noted that, even if the target were met, some 1.7 billion people would still be left without access to basic sanitation. Nonetheless, many delegations pointed out that there was clear political will to meet sanitation targets, and that it would be possible to reach them if countries learned from each other's successes and failures to develop sound policies and practices.

85. Several delegations indicated that much progress had been made in some parts of Asia and Africa in providing adequate sanitation services to rural and peri-urban communities and that some countries were on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal for sanitation. Nonetheless, in many countries, much more work needed to be done, as many delegations reported that large parts of their populations were still not properly served by sanitation services.

86. Several delegations noted that while urbanization was posing major challenges for sanitation, it was also important to address the situation in rural or peri-urban areas. Different strategies and approaches were needed to address these two demographics. A major group observed that a high proportion of the ODA going to the sector was invested in high cost structures which left poor communities without increased access.

Constraints and obstacles

Political commitment

87. Some delegations observed that a major constraint to implementation was that sanitation was often not listed as a national development priority. A number of delegations noted that sanitation had not been given priority in their poverty reduction strategy papers and that programmes and responses lacked coordination and focus. The central role of government in the implementation of sanitation programmes was stressed by many countries, and it was noted that in most countries sanitation lacks an institutional home. The need for setting clear policies and for coordination and cohesion within government, including at the regional and local level, was emphasized. Another difficulty was to move an issue of personal hygiene into the public debate, especially the aspects of privacy, dignity and security of women. Highlighting the issue of sanitation in the Commission could contribute to greater recognition of its importance. Other related constraints included: lack of finance; inadequate oversight, governance and regulations for disposal of waste; limited capacity-building and technology transfer. Lack of secure tenure was mentioned as a deterrent to household and community investments in sanitation.

Financial resources

88. The need for support and finance for implementing national plans of action was highlighted. Developing country efforts had been limited by inadequate financial investment for infrastructure for the environmentally sound disposal or recycling of wastewater and sewage. The inability of developing countries to improve the provision of sanitation had huge economic costs, as it affected many other sectors. However, it was also noted that access to bilateral and multilateral finance mechanisms was limited. A number of delegations drew attention to the very high costs of wastewater treatment, which required additional funds, whereas, others stressed the need for low-cost technologies and small-scale solutions involving local communities.

89. Linked to the issue of insufficient funds, some delegations identified competing national priorities as a constraint facing Governments in relation to the sanitation targets. The cost of servicing external debt was further compounding the financial constraints experienced by many developing

countries. A request was made for financial assistance to be provided on a grant or concessional basis and an appeal was made for debt relief.

Cultural and social considerations

90. It was recognized that there are important cultural sensitivities regarding the issues of sanitation and hygiene, especially those that relate to women's dignity and security. Several delegations pointed out, for example, that obstacles to ecological sanitation were to a large extent of a social and cultural nature. There could be room for social acceptance of making the best use of human excreta, if they are treated in a sanitary and environmentally sound manner, and using indigenous knowledge for protection of water sources.

Decentralization of services

91. Some participants called for the devolution of sanitation management to the household or community level. The view was also expressed that decentralization of government activities could lead to an emphasis on construction over education and hygiene promotion. Many delegations underlined the importance of involving multiple stakeholders and of community ownership of integrated water and sanitation plans and management.

Capacity development

92. Many delegations acknowledged that capacity development was an essential component in efforts to implement Agenda 21 and the targets outlined in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goals. Capacity-building was needed not only for engineers and policy makers, but also for operation and maintenance technicians, artisans and masons, and small-scale entrepreneurs to build proper facilities.

Data and information

93. It was noted by many delegations that the lack of meaningful data impaired decision-making and that there was a need for a more concerted effort to oversee, monitor and report on actual use of facilities, not just on numbers of latrines installed, in order to gauge progress on the implementation of agreed targets and goals.

Public awareness

94. Many delegations acknowledged that the lack of demand for sanitation was in itself an obstacle. Communities do not tend to embrace technologies or products that they do not feel they need. The lack of public awareness of linkages between sanitation, hygiene and disease, especially in rural areas, was identified as a constraint. Many delegations stressed the need for Governments to raise awareness of the benefits of sanitation and to act as facilitators for communities and small-scale providers, rather than primarily as infrastructure providers. Several delegations suggested that a shift in attitude was needed to view wastewater and sewage as a resource, rather than as waste.

Other constraints

95. It was stated that small island developing States were particularly vulnerable to lack of sanitation and safe water supplies and suffered from wastewater discharges into surface waters and the marine environment. It was noted that these States had specific needs with regard to technology, research and financial support. Three priority areas of intervention were identified: on-site sanitation facilities, off-site sanitation systems, and hygiene assessment and promotion.

Lessons learned

Political commitment

96. Several delegations emphasized that Governments have to shoulder their social responsibilities to their populace and the poor among them when it comes to providing services, including water and sanitation services. Many delegates stressed that there was no one solution to fit all countries or locations. There are specific environmental, economic, social and cultural dimensions that need to be taken into account so that the most appropriate, cost-effective and affordable technology and methods can be used.

Best practices

97. Delegates mentioned that successful community-based sanitation projects generally had the following characteristics: a strong long-term government commitment; demand-responsive approaches; affordable appropriate technologies; sanitation and hygiene education; capacity-building and community involvement; provision for proper maintenance; and sustainable financial management, including microcredit and cost sharing. Several delegations mentioned innovative approaches that had stimulated sanitation coverage, including demand-driven schemes, school sanitation, hand washing campaigns, promotion of "Ecosan" toilets, promotion of rainwater harvesting, and awards to villages in which 100 per cent of the houses and schools have latrines. One major group called for improving the working conditions and training of workers in proper handling of waste products.

Finance and subsidies

98. The view was expressed that financing for sanitation and hygiene should go hand-in-hand with financing for water projects, reinforcing the point made by many delegations that water and sanitation issues are interrelated and should be approached in a holistic manner.

99. There was a divergence of opinion over the best use of subsidies. Some delegations stated that the supply-driven approach, focusing on the subsidized provision of facilities, had not succeeded in stimulating demand for sanitation. Others were of the view that subsidies were necessary, but should be targeted at the poorest. The view was also expressed that since the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation had set concrete targets, resources needed to be made available to meet them. It was noted that while subsidies could contribute to access to sanitation, they could also undermine private provision or community efforts. Some delegations

pointed out that subsidies should be used sparingly and in conjunction with a range of responses, including measures to encourage market development.

Educati n and awareness

100. Delegations repeatedly underlined the important role of educat:on and awareness raising in advancing hygiene and sanitation practices, such as hand washing. Introducing water and sanitary facilities in schools has become a major focus of programmes in several countries. Such programmes, especially where separate facilities were available for boys and girls, have raised school enrolment and increased attendance of adolescent girls. Examples were given of schools having played a major role in educating children about the linkages between water, sanitation, hygiene and health.

101. It was also mentioned that media campaigns can be an effective means of raising awareness of the linkages between sanitation, hygiene and disease. Innovative public awareness techniques, such as street theatre and video and audio tapes in local languages, were seen as particularly useful tools. Several delegations were of the view that the successful examples had all used a bottom-up approach involving communities and women and youth as agents of change, while some emphasized that middle class people should be targeted to ensure that sanitation benefited from a "trickle down effect". It was also noted that the need for comfort, dignity, privacy and cleanliness may be much more important motivating factors for demanding access to sanitation than the health impact.

Technology

102. High-technology solutions and conventional sewerage networks may not necessarily be the best or most cost-effective solutions, but should be considered on a site-specific basis. The high cost of conventional water-borne sewerage and the adverse effect of waste water on the environment were noted by a number of delegations. Many delegations expressed the need for utilizing low-cost technology, including on-site sanitation solutions as alternatives to water-borne sewerages, whenever appropriate. Delegations cited several examples of lower-cost effective solutions, including the use of wetlands to clean water, wet and dry composting toilets, ecological sanitation and sanitary disposal of excreta. Technologies such as biogas digesters can be adapted so as to be accessible and understandable to local entrepreneurs. Decentralized sewerage systems and the establishment of cooperatives to involve communities were also mentioned. Examples were cited of slum community organizations that have taken the initiative to design, build and manage their own sanitation facilities at low cost. Several delegations reported local and village initiatives, such as "total sanitation" campaigns, which had been launched with the support of national governments, as well as international partners. Advances in science and technology, together with technology transfer, were critical for achieving the long-term goals of sustainable development.

103. Many delegations stated that ecological sanitation should be promoted and supported. Some delegates noted that ecological sanitation practices have met with success in places where employment opportunities and additional

income were generated. The scope for South-South cooperation was also highlighted by some delegates.

Private sector and markets

104. A number of representatives of major groups were critical of the involvement of the private sector in the provision of water and sanitation services, as they said it impacted negatively on access to water and sanitation, particularly for the poor. Some delegations highlighted successful examples of engagement with the private sector, particularly with small-scale service providers at the local level. Many participants stated that these providers had an important role to play. A number of delegations and major groups stated that the way forward should involve markets, including by treating waste products as economic goods, especially for agriculture and energy.

Partnerships

105. A number of delegations pointed out that partnerships, such as the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and its WASH campaign (water, sanitation and hygiene for all) were essential if sanitation programmes were to be realized, especially in urban areas.

Continuing challenges

Political commitment

106. Many delegations underlined the importance of including sanitation in national development plans, poverty reduction strategy papers and integrated water resources management plans. Some delegations emphasized that in developing national sanitation strategies and action plans, there was a need for separate strategies to address urban and rural areas. It was pointed out that sanitation strategies should be tailored to fit specific circumstances and that a one-size-fits-all approach was not feasible. The importance of ensuring that strategies are cost-effective was also emphasized. Regulation and enforcement of sanitary standards was seen as crucial for improving health conditions.

107. Some delegations pointed out that, while partnerships with various stakeholders are an essential component in realizing sanitation programmes and projects, the coordinating and oversight role of Governments should not be overlooked. The view was also expressed that the role of government in protecting water sources and maintaining public goods was a very important factor that needed to be addressed.

Mobilizing financial resources

108. Several delegations stressed that, because of competing national needs and priorities and the heavy investment involved, ODA from development partners was needed for sanitation infrastructure. They felt that the international community should support developing countries in strengthening investments in sanitation. The transfer of technology was also considered critical. Some delegations expressed support for directing grants and subsidies toward promoting and marketing sanitation and contributing to the creation of markets for small-scale service providers. Such an approach can leverage

resources from households, communities and local governments. The view was also expressed that such market support should come only from new and additional sources, not from ODA.

109. Many delegations emphasized the positive impacts on the health and economy of communities resulting from investments in sanitation and noted that the benefits of such investment generally far outweighed the costs, up to sixfold. Delegations mentioned a number of mechanisms to support implementation, including a consumption tax on water to fund sanitation.

Decentralization of services

110. Many delegations emphasized the need to strengthen local government authorities to assist in implementation efforts. The continued need for governmental support, oversight and financing, including through ODA, was also emphasized. There was also wide recognition of the need to focus on women and children and to enable women to participate in water and sanitation policy development and decision making processes.

Capacity-building

111. Several delegations highlighted the need for capacity-building in the area of sanitation, particularly since capacity-building is more often concentrated in the water resources area. It was considered important that the small-scale service providers be recognized by Governments and utilities and that they receive proper training and appropriate technology. Several delegations highlighted the need for regulation to ensure that these providers meet minimum standards.

Scaling-up of programmes

112. The need for pilot demonstration projects in different types of localities was noted as a means for promoting best practices. Several participants emphasized the need for a scaling-up of successful models and experiences. Leadership at all levels was seen as essential for progress. There is also a need to utilize new and existing networks to promote an array of possible solutions and best practices.

Information and monitoring

113. It was noted that there were problems relating to the measurement of access to basic or improved sanitation. While it is important to fulfil the goals in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the measurement of access is not simply about "taps and toilets". A more workable approach would be to set sector-specific targets that countries could adapt to their own conditions and then report on their progress.

Partnerships

114. Several major groups voiced concerns regarding the structure and results of some partnerships, and it was suggested that a code of conduct may be needed for public-private partnerships in provision of basic water and sanitation services. An example of an initiative towards that end was cited.

Employment opportunities

115. Many delegations and major groups considered that sanitation efforts could also result in job-creation opportunities for communities, for example in latrine building and soap production, or through using excreta as a resource for energy or agriculture. Public-private partnerships were considered important by many delegations in this regard.

Human settlements

Review of progress

116. The Commission reviewed the progress made in achieving the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with regard to human settlements. The Secretary-General's report on the thematic area of human settlements was considered as a useful and balanced overview of the status of implementation. The findings contained in the report were generally supported.

117. Delegations noted that rapid urbanization had changed the pattern of human settlements development. The relationships between urban and rural areas are changing, with urban areas becoming more agricultural and rural areas becoming more urbanized. Urban slums are growing in number and size, and poverty has become increasingly urbanized. As stated in the Secretary-General's report, more than 900 million people currently live in slum settlements and the number of slum dwellers worldwide is projected to rise over the next 30 years to about 2 billion.

118. There was general recognition among delegations that the goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers addressed only the tip of the iceberg. Even with ongoing activities towards meeting target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals, the population living in slums will increase at an alarming rate because of continuing rapid urbanization and persistent poverty. Some countries are close to achieving target 11 in relative terms, but several delegations indicated that their countries were not on track for achieving the target. Some countries have shown impressive results in reducing slum populations, and others have comprehensive and ambitious slum upgrading programmes in place. Still, in many countries, slums are mushrooming. This reconfirms the conclusion in the Secretary-General's report that the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, however commendable, is patently inadequate. Several delegations stressed that the focus on slum dwellers ought not to exclude attention to the needs of poor people living outside slums, while recognizing that not every slum inhabitant lives in absolute poverty. It was also emphasized that there are examples of countries where poverty has been reduced, while slums are continuing to grow.

119. Slum upgrading programmes have taken centre stage in the fight against slums and urban poverty. Several examples were cited that yielded concrete results in slum upgrading, which could be replicated. The most powerful examples of slum upgrading were at the community level, where organizations

of the urban poor were showing increased capacity to build their own homes and improve their own environment. Those activities are actively contributing to slum reduction and ensuring that the vision of "cities without slums" could become a reality.

120. Delegations and major groups noted that slum inhabitants often face eviction and sometimes become inhabitants of other slum areas after an upgrading of their previous abodes. In contrast, some delegations described resettlement plans made in cooperation with the slum dwellers. It was emphasized that, in cases of resettlement, slum dwellers should not be resettled to areas far away from the city centres and employment, especially where public transport links are weak.

121. Several countries made interventions regarding their national experience in reconstruction and recovery following conflicts and a growing number of natural disasters. It was noted that efficient and effective institutions and sound reforms are prerequisites of success. The active participation of the poor must be an integral part of the reconstruction and recovery process. It was also observed that the aftermath of disasters had seen some positive outcomes, such as the development of a vulnerability atlas and improvement of construction standards and building codes.

122. Many countries cited specific examples of successful partnerships that yielded positive results at community level. It was noted that the private sector's main role is in the building, developing, and financing of housing projects, while the public sector's main role is in creating an enabling institutional environment. Several delegations and one major group, however, noted that there is a tendency to place responsibility for implementation of public-private partnerships in a disproportionate manner on the private partner, often in the absence of a regulatory framework to monitor the effects of deregulated service delivery and ensure accountability of private partners.

Constraints and obstacles

123. Delegations noted a number of major constraints to the implementation of the goals and targets for sustainable human settlements development contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Many delegations noted that developing countries are still facing serious challenges and difficulties due to severe lack of financial resources, appropriate technology and capacity. These constraints, as well as the pandemic of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, have negatively affected developing countries with regard to the provision of shelter and improvement in the conditions in slum settlements. It was also noted that high debt burdens limit available finance for the provision of housing, infrastructure and services.

124. Other key constraints mentioned by many delegations and major groups were limited access of the poor to land and insecurity of land tenure in informal settlements as well as problems related to good governance. Some delegations noted that land speculation makes the cost of acquiring land exorbitant, excluding the poor from land and housing markets.

125. There was widespread recognition of the need for greater coherence among relevant policies; water, sanitation and human settlements must be dealt

with in a way that recognizes the strong interlinkages between them, and addresses the cross-cutting issues in an integrated manner. Delegations pointed to the lack of a stable policy environment and legislative frameworks as constraints for sustainable human settlements development.

126. Weak local governance was cited by some delegates as an important contributory factor to slum conditions, including violence. While there exists no common recipe for good governance, it was emphasized that good governance builds on the three key principles of decentralization, partnership and inclusion. Decentralization of functions to the local level has proceeded in many countries in all regions, though it has not always been accompanied by commensurate decentralization of the resources needed to meet the new functions. Some delegations and one major group noted that a considerable amount of progress had been made in relation to the working conditions in human settlements due to the greater involvement of trade unions in decision-making.

127. The needs and concerns of women are still inadequately addressed. Examples cited by delegations gave evidence of the fact that conditions in poor urban areas and slums have a disproportionate impact on women, including with regard to social exclusion, entrepreneurial opportunities, health problems, access to land and credit, and victimization by crime and domestic violence. Restrictions on women's access to land and inheritance rights have often precluded their access to credit. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has heightened the urgency of addressing the inheritance rights of female household members in many countries.

128. The lack of a reliable system to monitor the implementation of goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals was highlighted by several delegations. Such a system could also be important in the context of nation- and citywide slum eradication efforts.

Lessons learned

129. New approaches to the planning and development of cities and urban areas are required that integrate local economic development, job creation and enterprise development, social integration, the delivery of housing and basic infrastructure services, health and education services, and transportation. Cornerstones of an improved framework for human settlements development are investments, tenure security and good governance. Some delegations and major groups stressed that community-based pro-poor strategies must be designed and realistic time frames for targeted policy interventions defined. It was also noted that there is a need to protect and improve the assets of poor households and transform them into productive capital through, for example, creating secure tenure and property rights.

130. It was noted by several delegations that, in informal settlements, dwellings of the poor are also frequently places of business. Thus, home improvement loan programmes, for example, through microcredit institutions can also foster entrepreneurship and income generation. Women in particular tend to operate businesses out of their homes.

131. Slum upgrading programmes work best if they are rooted in grass-roots strategies and become part of national development plans and strategies. Improving the lives of slum dwellers depends largely on the ability of local actors to plan, manage and maintain their own communities.

132. The self-reliance of poor people was stressed by some delegations and major groups. The poor, for example, mostly build their own homes and most low-cost housing construction occurs in the informal sector. It was suggested, therefore, that partnerships for human settlements development need to encompass the informal sector. Associations of slum dwellers have in many instances taken the initiative in slum upgrading activities. Traditional informal savings institutions have proven effective in mobilizing community resources for upgrading. Examples were cited of cases where such institutions had given rise to urban poor funds that attracted additional financial resources from development partners. It was also noted that up-scaling of microfinance schemes is essential in order to achieve slum upgrading.

133. Many delegations noted that the increase in slum dwellers will be accelerated by immigration from poorer rural areas. A number urged that action in slum areas therefore be combined with policies to support the sustainable development of rural areas. At the same time, it was noted that there is a reverse link, as urban migrants are often an important source of financial remittances to rural areas.

134. It was noted that two key problems have emerged as a result of disaster and conflict, one being of a material and the other of a psychological nature. People experienced greater difficulty in recovering from a conflict than from a natural disaster. It was also noted that the short-term approach to disaster relief did not necessarily lead to the long-term development activities needed by cities, such as rebuilding communities and promoting businesses. Campaigns to inform the public about evacuation plans and early warning systems were important for disaster preparedness. The view was expressed that the discussions in the Commission should serve as inputs to other relevant events, including the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. The need for enhancing cooperation at all levels was stressed, including the possibility of establishing regional collaborative centres for natural disaster management.

Continuing challenges

Political commitment

135. There was general recognition among delegations on the need to give more attention to human settlements development in the context of sustainable development. The Commission could add value to the human settlements agenda by clearly identifying the constraints to and options for achieving goals and targets in sustainable human settlements development, with a focus on finance, governance, technology transfer and capacity-building. It was noted that human settlement development strategies should be linked to poverty reduction strategy papers and other national sustainable development strategies. The usefulness of aligning the strategy papers with the Millennium Development Goals was also stressed.

Housing and tenure security

136. Several delegations advocated the right of all to adequate housing supported by regularization of land and housing tenure. Other delegations advocated a development-based approach. Support was also expressed for a sustainable development-based approach combining the responsibility of national governments and that of the international community. It was recognized that ensuring security of property tenure is a prerequisite for people to have access to formal credit to invest in their homes. While there has been some positive movement on security of tenure, land registration, titling and allocation remain high priority concerns of central and local governments. A particular problem exists with regard to legal recognition of women's rights to both tenure and inheritance.

Land use and urban planning

137. Some delegations emphasized the importance of reassessing national housing standards and adopting adequate house-building regulations. The notion of proactive land use management and urban planning received strong support from many delegations. It was stated that effective land management facilitated the resolution of economic, social and environmental conflict and suggested that geographic information systems would facilitate sustainable city planning.

Empowerment of the poor

138. Empowerment of the poor was highlighted by many delegations as essential so that they could emerge from the vicious cycle that traps them in slums. A number of delegations and major groups insisted that slum dwellers be regarded as full members of society and agents of change, and that partnerships be forged with the poor in implementing pro-poor, community-based strategies. Examples put forth by delegations underlined the importance of close cooperation between local authorities and slum communities in the successful upgrading of existing slums.

Gender mainstreaming

139. There was general support among delegations for mainstreaming the gender perspective in human settlement policies, programmes and projects and the need for gender sensitive monitoring. Ensuring equal participation of women in decision-making remains a continuing challenge in most countries. Although women are the main actors in households and play a vital role in slum upgrading, they continue to face various constraints to becoming effectively involved. Creating nuclei of strong women in small towns and cities who could network with other women to exchange learning experiences was cited as a good practice of empowering women that could be replicated.

Enterprise and employment promotion

140. Delegations stressed that local economic activities need to be stimulated and supported to enable the often vibrant informal businesses to develop into formal companies with reduced transaction costs and greater employment opportunities. It was felt by some delegations that the informal economy, often

the most important source of livelihoods for the urban poor, should be seen as an asset, not as a liability. There is an important role for local authorities to facilitate the development of local entrepreneurship, in particular among the many poor women who are engaged in the informal sector, but lack entrepreneurial opportunities. Several delegations observed that urban poor communities need to be integrated not only with the broader urban economy but, if possible, with the global economy through, for example the creation of local zones for enterprises employing slum dwellers to produce goods and services for world markets.

Finance and investment

141. Provision of housing and basic services and infrastructure for rapidly growing numbers of slum dwellers and other urban and rural inhabitants will entail large capital investments. Many delegations emphasized that current ODA and foreign investment flows are not sufficient to meet the need. Neither are national government resources, especially in countries where heavy fiscal demands are being made by the health cost of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other pressing problems. Thus, many delegations insisted that new sources of financing need to be tapped. ODA could be used to catalyze other financial resources. Debt swap schemes could be used to address sustainable development of human settlements in developing countries, as illustrated by some delegations.

142. Other innovative financing approaches mentioned by delegations included: building capacity for municipal governments to tap domestic and international capital markets; community mortgage lending; housing development and urban poor funds, possibly financed by earmarked excise tax revenue; securitization of microcredit finance; secondary mortgage markets; and debt swaps, for instance for land to be made available for settlements. It was also noted that, in a number of countries, traditional mortgage lenders are going down-market to serve lower income households. It was stressed that long-term financing is needed to support the lending of domestic financial institutions to serve the habitat needs of the poor.

143. Many delegations emphasized that the poor are bankable and should be considered small-scale investors in their own right, although one major group noted that this may not be true of the desperately poor and those who are terminally ill, for example those with HIV/AIDS. A number of examples were provided of the role slum dwellers can play to improve their communities when financially empowered.

Technology

144. Several delegations highlighted that the access of developing countries to technologies for the provision of housing, infrastructure and services, and the capacities to adapt and use these technologies, is critical to developing countries. Collaborative research (North-South and South-South) needs to be enhanced to strengthen the scientific-technological basis in developing countries and build the skill for technology application.

Capacity-building and stakeholder participation

145. Many delegates stressed that strengthening the capacities of local governments and maximizing the potential of major groups in implementation at local level remains a continuing challenge. They indicated that Governments need to establish enabling policies and legislation to harness better the potential of the private sector, including through public-private partnerships, with regard to investment, technology transfer and capacity-building. The view was expressed that local governments must create the right conditions for the development of private financial institutions able and willing to lend to the poor.

Relationship among water, sanitation and human settlements

146. It was generally recognized that water, sanitation and human settlements were strongly interlinked and should be addressed in an integrated fashion. Many delegations and major groups noted that issues, problems and inter-linkages were locally specific and that local authorities played a key role in addressing them. It was also noted that local policies and legal frameworks were most effective when aligned with national policies and targets. Poverty reduction strategy papers provide a mechanism for prioritizing and integrating action on water, sanitation and human settlements to meet the needs of poor people.

147. Several delegations and major groups noted that community organizations could play an important role in the sustainable development of human settlements, including water and sanitation services, particularly in low-income communities and slum settlements. Involvement of women and youth were seen as especially important. There have been particular successes where slum dwellers were organized and working in partnership with local and national authorities. Local authorities could assist in scaling-up successful pilot and community initiatives.

148. Many delegations emphasized the central role of women in water, sanitation and human settlements and the particular vulnerability of children and youth to lack of safe water and sanitation and to unhealthy cities. They stressed that women need to be included in planning and policy-making in these areas, and that women, youth and children can serve as leading agents of change.

149. It was noted that the growth of sustainable cities required integrated planning for land use, water supplies, sanitation and transportation. Developing infrastructure is more expensive and difficult when settlements are already established. It was also noted that title to property and security of tenure were important for household investment in housing and sanitation.

150. Some delegations and a major group expressed the view that efforts to address problems of water, sanitation and human settlements had tended to focus on cities. They stressed the interdependence of rural and urban development and called for greater efforts to address the needs of rural people, who include a large majority of poor people and those without access to safe drinking water and sanitation. It was also noted that sustainable rural

development could reduce migration to the cities and reduce the scale of urban problems.

151. Some delegations and major groups expressed the view that access to water and housing were basic human rights. The view was also expressed that there is no internationally agreed human right to water.

152. Many delegations stressed the importance of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation commitments in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements. International commitment to the achievement of those goals and targets would represent a major advance in sustainable development and poverty reduction. They noted, however, that greater resources would need to be committed at both national and international levels if the goals and targets are to be met.

153. Some delegations noted that an integrated approach to water, sanitation and human settlements was also important at the international level, including among agencies of the United Nations system.

Regional sessions

Economic Commission for Africa

154. The interactive discussions were based on the presentation of the outcome of the Regional Implementation Meeting on water, sanitation and human settlements for Africa by its Chairman, Captain E. Francis Babu, Minister of Works, Housing and Communication of Uganda, as well as on a number of presentations by invited panellists. The Minister mentioned that the meeting affirmed the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the framework for actions to be taken in Africa in water, sanitation and human settlements and addressed achievements, constraints and lessons learned in these areas in the region. The meeting particularly noted the need to ensure the translation of international recommendations into national actions. The Minister outlined a number of specific recommendations made at the meeting to help expedite actions towards meeting the specific Millennium Development Goals and the targets and goals of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The African regional implementation meeting was held in conjunction with the Pan-African Water Conference.

155. There was a general concern that some African countries would be unable to meet the Millennium Development Goals and the goals and targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements owing to a range of constraints, including the negative impact of globalization and macroeconomic policies of some developed countries on Africa, particularly in the area of trade and market access. The continued degradation of the environment was also mentioned, notably the problem of drought and desertification. In addition, post-conflict and natural disaster-affected countries experience particular constraints related to displaced populations living in unplanned settlements with poor access to water and sanitation services. Many African countries emphasized the challenges of rapid urbanization and the prevalence of slums and squatter settlements with unsanitary conditions and the lack of infrastructure.

156. Some delegations pointed out institutional weaknesses at the national level and the need for key ministries in Governments to ensure adequate financial allocations and integrated responses. With respect to mobilization of financial resources, there is a general lack of adequate domestic funding for programmes in the three thematic clusters. The lack of international financing also continues to be a serious constraint and some delegations pointed to the underfunded status of the Global Shelter Facility and the World Solidarity Fund.

157. Another problem noted was the high proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) that African countries spend on external debt service. Some progress was reported in launching innovative financing mechanisms such as the debt swap for sustainable development and the European Union's special Water Facility for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The Water Facility is designed to catalyze additional funding and attract new partners for the water sector of Africa. In Africa, the European Union's Water Initiative has initial activities that include the development of an integrated approach to river basin management, involving a number of African countries, civil society and financial institutions. The African Development Bank has launched a Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative that aims to accelerate access to water and sanitation services in Africa to reach 80 per cent coverage by 2015. The West African Water Initiative is another example of a new partnership improving water and sanitation services in that subregion.

158. Despite concern for slow progress in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in Africa, some delegations saw pockets of hope and progress. For example, the African Ministerial Council on Water, under the overall framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, is strengthening intergovernmental and subregional cooperation on water supply and sanitation, monitoring progress of regional initiatives, analysing financial and technological investments and assessing best practices. It was suggested that the role of the African Commission on Sustainable Development under the Economic Commission for Africa should be clarified and linked with actions taken at the national and subregional levels.

159. The need for more partnerships among Governments, the private sector and civil society was expressed. Some Governments have taken steps to combat poverty and address problems of access to water, sanitation and human settlements by developing policies, establishing legislative instruments, making institutional arrangements at both the central and local government levels, and initiating national programmes to empower civil society. To support these national efforts, however, many delegations advocated the need for increased international support in terms of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer.

Economic Commission for Europe

160. The results of the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Implementation Forum were presented by Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, providing a basis for discussion. The Minister pointed out that there had been positive steps in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe to meet the

commitments on human settlements, mostly for urban settlements, and, in water and sanitation, there had been important steps towards integrated water resources management and the treatment of wastewater. She also noted that, as with other regions, great disparities exist within the region and much can be learned from exchange of experiences. Delegations appreciated the focus of the Forum on the major challenges, obstacles and best practices. Many participants also emphasized the importance of the cross-cutting issues considered in the Forum such as education and capacity-building.

161. The need for action-oriented regional cooperation to speed up efforts to meet the Development Goals and the commitments of the Johannesburg Plan was emphasized. The Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia strategy will serve as the principal instrument to reach these goals in their subregion. It was stressed that there is a need to meet the integrated water resources management target in order to reach the water target and other Millennium Development Goals. Several countries noted that in developing integrated water resources management plans, the river basin or ecosystem approach should be applied. Sustainable use of transboundary waters calls for enhanced cooperation between countries that share the same watershed. The importance of involving major groups in water projects as active partners rather than target groups was emphasized by representatives of major groups.

162. A marked concern for problems related to adequate and affordable housing was expressed by several countries. Some participants expressed support for planning for compact cities, noting for example, the efficiency and social inclusiveness of public transportation systems, and drew attention to problems related to urban sprawl. The need to raise the profile of sanitation by raising awareness of the interlinkaged issues of water, sanitation and human settlements was also stressed.

163. Several general policy issues were raised, including decentralization, privatization of water services and public/private partnerships. Concern was expressed that the prevalent short-term project approach might pose risks for the achievement of long-term sustainability targets.

164. A number of suggestions were made concerning the future role and organization of the Regional Implementation Forum, including enhanced interaction through the organization of break-out sessions and thematic round tables and improved focus and timing of the meetings so as to provide effective inputs to the Commission, including for the policy-year sessions. Other suggested activities included a regional gap analysis and making a "Learning Centre", like that of the Commission, part of future regional forums.

165. The heterogeneity of the Economic Commission for Europe region was noted. Despite progress achieved in some areas, urgent problems remain, in particular for certain vulnerable countries with economies in transition, which require special attention. A subregional approach is needed to address those problems.

166. It was noted that the regional discussions during the Commission's sessions benefit not only countries within the regions concerned but also those of other regions through the sharing of experiences and lessons learned. The

importance of further interregional cooperation and cooperation among regional commissions was also mentioned.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

167. The interactive discussions were based on the presentation of the outcomes of the regional meetings on water, sanitation and human settlement by Mr. Joseluis Samaniego, Chief, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by a number of panel presentations.

168. Many delegations agreed that although the Millennium Development Goals have raised the level of awareness of the integrated nature of issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements, there is a general lack of progress in the region in meeting the Millennium Development Goal and goals and targets of the Johannesburg Plan. New kinds of alliances are needed among central ministries, local authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society to promote the integrated approaches needed.

169. Several delegations mentioned important challenges faced by the region regarding water supply services. One key issue is that water utilities regulation and privatization had not kept pace with the increasing demand for water in an efficient manner. In many countries the water sector had already been restructured, separating the functions of planning, regulation, provision of services and system management. Some delegations noted a need for the consolidation of fragmented institutional structures to provide a basis for sustainable management of water resources. In some countries, changes in water legislation had not adequately taken into consideration the needs of traditional users such as indigenous people. In many countries, the legal framework needed to be strengthened and better balanced, while promoting public participation. The view was expressed that a better balance was needed, including through a new conceptual framework, between the profitability sought by the private sector and the development needs of societies to ensure that investments in water supply are also directed toward the needs of the poor and socially marginalized.

170. Many delegations stressed the need to implement the principles of integrated water resources management based on the river basin approach. It was important to establish economic, social and environmental criteria for water projects and to conduct impact assessments based on these criteria. Also emphasized was the importance of an integrated planning approach to land use and watershed and coastal zone management.

171. A major group expressed the view that rainwater harvesting, which had been marginalized in many countries' policies, could be a priority non-conventional and low-cost option for overcoming water scarcity, particularly in small island developing States, high plateau areas or areas where internal conflict had produced a large number of displaced people.

172. It was noted that only 15 per cent of the region's municipal wastewater was treated, resulting in highly polluted water resources. The principal constraints to wastewater treatment included lack of infrastructure, weak

institutions and poor management. The practice of wastewater reuse was still at an initial stage, and Governments were beginning to regulate water quality.

173. It was noted that the scarcity of urbanized land and the speculative nature of land markets in the cities of the region had dramatically increased land prices and pushed poor groups to the outskirts of the cities, thus contributing to the socio-spatial exclusion of the poor. Some delegations identified a need for policies and actions to address the human settlement problems of people who remain in the rural areas, so as to discourage rural to urban migration.

174. To address the lack of technical and institutional capacity in the region, it was proposed that ECLAC, as part of the regional preparatory process for the thirteenth session of the Commission, conduct a gap analysis or regional assessment of capacity-building needs at the local, national and regional levels. Such an analysis could assist international and bilateral agencies to address such needs in an integrated and coordinated manner.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

175. The outcome of the Regional Implementation Meeting on water, sanitation and human settlements for Asia and the Pacific, which was presented by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, was followed by a number of panel presentations.

176. With regard to water supply, many delegations expressed the view that despite some progress, significant challenges remain. Approximately one third of the rural population of Asia is still without sustainable access to improved water supplies. Key problems to be addressed include: increasing water stress, weak capacities for integrated water resources planning and management, and inadequate financing for water supply infrastructure. One outcome of the third World Water Forum was the Portfolio of Water Actions, for which there is now a web site network that allows quick assessment of water situations in the world as well as promoting new partnerships and sharing of knowledge and experiences in dealing with water supply problems. In the view of some delegations, the new International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015 offers a great opportunity to achieve coordinated action towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal for water. The regional commissions are encouraged to develop specific programmes in this regard.

177. Representatives of many Pacific small island developing States underlined the unique challenges they faced. Sustainable water supply management in small island developing States is constrained by (a) fragile water resources; (b) weak capacity for sustainable water and wastewater management, and (c) highly complex water governance structures. Development of long-term sustainable water strategies is crucial, requiring integration of cross-cutting issues with an emphasis on community development. Methodologies such as rainwater harvesting and desalination, which are important to the small island developing States in particular, could be further developed with the help of bilateral and multilateral donors.

178. Sanitation was identified as a large and growing problem in the region as about one fourth of the urban population is living without access to basic

sanitation, mostly in slums. Representatives of major groups noted that women bear the greatest burden when sanitation is lacking, in particular with respect to personal safety and lost productivity. Water and sanitation need to be looked upon in an integrated manner, and scientific and social data on water are needed, including data disaggregated by gender.

179. In the Asia and Pacific region, of the over 1 billion people who live in urban areas, 45 per cent live in slums. Three critical issues were identified that need to be tackled in confronting the urban shelter problem including: (a) availability of low-cost urban land; (b) provision of affordable financing; and (c) participation of urban communities in planning and developing low-income housing.

180. There was general support for regional implementation meetings such as those that provided important contributions to the present session of the Commission, as these helped to identify regional diversities and reflect on specific challenges and priorities faced by each region. The regional commissions are also expected to continue to contribute to the Commission's work in the future, including for the policy session. It was suggested that the regional process might be used to identify gaps for capacity-building in specific areas. It was also suggested that the Commission's "Learning Centre" might be replicated at the regional level to promote capacity-building at regional, national and local levels.

181. A number of participants called for the strengthening of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and suggested that the Asian Development Bank and other regional and subregional organizations should be encouraged to enhance further cooperation within the region, as well as promote South-South cooperation among different countries in the region. Given the diversity of the region, one delegate cautioned against over-simplifying by generalizing issues at the regional level and emphasized the importance of a subregional approach.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

182. The interactive discussions were based on the presentation of the outcome of the Regional Implementation Meeting on water, sanitation and human settlements by Dr. Mohammad El-Eryani, Minister of Water and Environment of Yemen, followed by a number of panel presentations. The Minister indicated that the region has witnessed strengthening of policy frameworks, adoption of water laws in line with Islamic law and bilateral agreements on surface water and shared water resources. Many utilities have been decentralized and are autonomous and independent from central Governments. Standards for wastewater discharged have been set and are being monitored.

183. It was generally recognized that, given the severe water scarcity in much of the region, countries faced particular challenges and obstacles in efforts to meet the goals for water, sanitation and human settlements set out in the Millennium Declaration and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. While some progress was noted in improving institutions and decentralizing decision-making for water and sanitation, doubts were raised as to whether the region could meet the goals within the specified time frames, given the magnitude of

the problem, the paucity of resources and population growth, which is relatively high at more than 3 per cent per year.

184. Delegations emphasized linkages to poverty and noted specific efforts by Governments to mitigate the adverse social effects on the poor of high prices and globalization. In the area of human settlements, it was noted that some States provided free or subsidized land for housing for the poor, and housing loans were offered at preferential rates by special housing banks. In some cases, drinking water was subsidized for areas where the majority of people were poor so as to avoid adverse effects of increased prices and globalization on the poor. Another innovative financing mechanism mentioned as potentially effective was the exchange of debt for water projects. The view was expressed that good initiatives such as these to address needs for increased access to finance could be replicated by other countries.

185. Delegations viewed the private sector as having a role to play in the provision of water and sanitation services and housing, and some noted the special role of the private sector given that Governments alone cannot meet all the demands for services in these areas. Some delegations stressed the importance of an enabling environment, transparency, legal frameworks, good governance and stable economic policies when encouraging private sector investment. Private-public partnerships were also mentioned as an option that had been pursued in some countries. Some expressed the view that communities should choose the most appropriate arrangements, taking into account local needs. The view was also expressed that in situations where private sector performance has been disappointing, the sector could be further challenged to live up to its promises and to be accountable for its actions.

186. Delegations mentioned a number of areas where there was a need for international cooperation to introduce new technologies, including for water purification, wastewater and sewage treatment, desalination and water for highland farming. The use of new technologies needs to be expanded. International support was also seen as needed for capacity-building efforts.

187. Peace and security in the region were viewed as essential for achieving the above-mentioned goals related to water, sanitation and human settlements, in particular for enhancing coordination among countries sharing water resources at the river basin or aquifer level. It was noted that the political situation in the region has had great impacts on water access, allocation of water resources and efficiency of use.

Partnerships fair: highlights

188. The twelfth session of the Commission was the first to incorporate a Partnerships Fair in its official activities. The purpose of the Fair was to provide an opportunity for partnerships registered with the Commission to showcase progress, network, identify new partners and learn from each other's experiences.

189. Building on the experimental Partnerships Fair organized at the Commission's eleventh session, which contained only a presentation component, and on feedback from the report of the Commission on its eleventh

session, this year's Fair contained a range of activities: interactive discussions, presentations, information desks, video displays and a poster exhibit.

190. The Fair featured 50 partnership presentations, 6 interactive discussion sessions, 28 information desks, 18 poster exhibits and 5 video displays, most focusing on one of the three themes of water, sanitation and human settlements. Three new partnerships were launched. The sessions were well-attended, averaging 42 people per session.

191. Interactive discussions included a session on human settlements partnerships and another on water and sanitation partnerships, as well as a series on practical issues related to partnerships: tools for management of partnerships information; partnership goals and structure; communication and coordination; and funding for partnerships.

192. A diverse range of participants, representing Governments, major groups, the United Nations system and other organizations, as well as partnerships, combined with a focus on implementation-oriented dialogue created a positive working atmosphere. All sessions, particularly the interactive discussions, featured dynamic and fruitful exchanges.

193. There was general agreement about some of the elements of a successful partnership. Many participants underlined the importance of full commitment and engagement from all partners and stressed the need for partnerships to be demand-driven. The importance and challenges of up-scaling partnership activities were also emphasized. Striking the right balance between time spent on the organization of partnerships versus time spent on implementation was highlighted.

194. Efforts to secure sustainable financing were viewed as a major challenge. It was observed that partners had greater success when they engaged donors during the planning stage of their initiative. The importance of non-financial contributions in the form of technology, information resources, staff time and office space was also noted.

195. Presentations of operational partnerships highlighted a wide range of concrete outcomes, including: the number of experts trained in the past two years; the number of households with safer drinking water; rebuilt school buildings; the size of an information-sharing network; specific policy commitments made by Governments; and number of new partnerships launched. While these partnerships generally received positive feedback, participants emphasized the need for, and challenges related to, replicating these and other initiatives.

196. The need for more in-depth analysis, monitoring and information on registered partnerships was stressed, and there was particular interest in lessons learned from both successes and failures. Participants noted that owing to the wide variety of partnerships, it was difficult to draw general conclusions about the contribution of these partnerships to sustainable development, as well as about broad lessons learned.

197. From participants' feedback, the Partnerships Fair was viewed to be a valuable forum for a constructive exchange of views on lessons learned and best practices; in particular, the interactive discussion sessions and information

desks were well received. A number of suggestions were offered including the observation that provision of interpretation services would greatly enhance participation and exchange of views among all interested stakeholders and delegations.

Learning Centre

198. Eighteen courses were offered by the Learning Centre during the regular session of the Commission. Most were in English, while one was offered in French. The courses provided practical, hands-on knowledge to support implementation of Agenda 21 and the targets set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on water, sanitation and human settlements, as well as on cross-cutting issues aimed at building capacities and institutions and improving access to finance. Many course instructors incorporated case studies in their lectures, and most courses included question and answer periods and interactive discussions, which were particularly successful. Instructors represented a wide range of stakeholders and institutions including major universities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and international institutions.

199. Subjects included incorporating water management learning in education systems, urban governance tools, ICT and networking for sustainable development, science and decision-making, financing for water projects, gender and sanitation, transboundary waterways and improving cities and the lives of the poor. Institutions offering instruction included Harvard University, Columbia University, the University of Rome "La Sapienza", Hokkaido University (Japan), CapNet, UNDP and the Smithsonian Institute, the World Bank, the Environment Education Network (Norway), United States Agency for International Development, UN-Habitat, the Gender and Water Alliance and the Global Environment Facility.

200. Courses were well-attended with an average of 25 to 30 participants per course. Some courses had particularly broad appeal and attracted many more participants, filling the conference room to capacity, including those on Global Environment Facility funding, integrated water resources management, and national sustainable development strategies. Participants represented a cross-section of participants in the Commission from national delegations, non-governmental organizations and other institutions, as well as experts. Discussion sessions were often lively interactions among participants from different groups and between participants from developed and developing countries and were an important component of the learning experience. One course included presentations by secondary level students who had benefited from integrating sustainable development practices in their curriculum. Participants expressed enthusiasm for the Learning Centre and its inclusion in the regular session, and initial feedback on individual courses has been positive.

Side events

201. Side events are a valuable complementary part of the sessions of the Commission, generating informal opportunities for exchange of information, experience and non-standard views. More than 90 side events and related

activities were organized by major groups, Governments, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations in the margins of the official meetings. Most focused on the themes of the main thematic cluster of the session, namely, water, sanitation and human settlements, as well as other relevant themes.

Part two
High-level segment

Introduction

202. The participation of more than 100 ministers with environment, water, housing, development, finance and agriculture portfolios as well as heads of a number of United Nations agencies and international organizations and the broad-based participation of major groups is indicative of the importance that these parties attach to their commitments to reach the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goals and targets on water, sanitation and human settlements, and to the work of the Commission. The role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the high-level intergovernmental body on sustainable development and for monitoring progress towards implementation of Agenda 21, as well as achieving the goals and targets contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was highlighted. In his opening address to the Commission, Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the Commission to keep a close eye on progress, to be a "watchdog".

203. Ministers valued the richness of the discussions and the sharing of experiences and best practices on national and local implementation efforts as well as on the constraints, obstacles and challenges faced. They welcomed the active participation of major groups throughout the session. They also appreciated the outcome of the regional implementation forums, the diversity of activities at the twelfth session and the opportunities for capacity-building, including through partnership fairs, the Learning Centre and side-events. The session was organized in a manner that encouraged interactive discussions and ministers expressed satisfaction with these working methods and suggested that their example could be followed in subsequent review sessions of the Commission.

204. Ministers and heads of delegation who addressed the Commission during the special segment on small island developing States underscored the importance of ensuring that the International Meeting for the 10-Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States secures a renewed political commitment by all countries to the Barbados Programme of Action and that the meeting's outcome focus on practical and pragmatic actions for its further implementation. The unique characteristics that result in the vulnerability of the small island developing States were stressed, as were new and emerging issues such as HIV/AIDS and security concerns.

Meeting the targets

205. Ministers emphasized that achieving the targets for water, sanitation, and human settlements and achieving the poverty eradication target are inextricably linked and play a crucial role for sustaining economic growth. It was noted that the status of implementation of the goals and targets is as follows:

(a) A considerable number of countries are expected to reach the target of developing integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005 but many countries would need further technical assistance to achieve the target;

(b) A considerable number of countries are on track to halve the population without access to safe drinking water by 2015 but progress is uneven among countries and continents and many countries will fail to meet the goal if progress continues at the current rate;

(c) A large number of countries are not on track to reach the target of halving the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015, either in rural or urban areas, unless substantial additional resources were raised; and

(d) Some countries are close to achieving the target of significantly improving the lives of slum dwellers by 2020 in relative terms, while several countries are not on track. In many countries slums are growing at an alarming pace.

206. Although many countries are not currently on track, the targets for water, sanitation and human settlements are achievable in the time frame agreed. Achieving them, however, will require high level political commitment and strengthened governance at all levels, and substantial efforts at mobilizing and effectively using resources. Ministers stressed their commitment to implementation and to making this a decade of kept promises and emphasized the importance of providing safe drinking water, sanitation and shelter as a prerequisite for achieving other Millennium Development Goals.

Creating an enabling environment

207. Each country is responsible for its own progress towards implementing Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation targets and commitments, taking into account that there are common but differentiated responsibilities. Ministers acknowledged that developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, continue to need support from donor countries, United Nations agencies and international financial institutions and other organizations, particularly in the areas of planning, finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building. There was widespread support for integrating water, sanitation and human settlements into national sustainable development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers.

Capacity-building and transfer of technology

208. Ministers recognized that capacity-building efforts had not kept pace with evolving needs, and that substantial technical and institutional gaps remain at all levels. Monitoring programmes for water, sanitation and human settlements need to be strengthened at national level if progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation targets is to be measured.

209. National capacities could usefully be strengthened in scientific and technical know-how to conduct assessment and monitoring of water resources, water quality, and aspects of water vulnerability — including to natural disasters, particularly in small island developing States. Closer and more focused North-South, South-South and regional scientific and technical cooperation would facilitate this. Local communities, including indigenous peoples, organizations and individuals possess a wealth of knowledge and practical experience that could be more effectively utilized and more widely shared with strengthened regional and international mechanisms for knowledge exchange in these areas.

Governance

210. Ministers stressed that strong institutions and good governance are essential to ensure proper and efficient use of scarce government resources and affordable service delivery to the poor and noted progress made in many countries. Democratic and inclusive participation of all stakeholders, the rule of law, conducive regulatory environments, accountability, transparency, and corporate social responsibility, including efforts to combat corruption, were recognized by Ministers as important dimensions of good governance. Political stability and security, and sound economic management were also recognized as particularly important for mobilizing investment and productive private-sector entrepreneurial initiatives. Strong local institutions are necessary for effective service delivery, especially to support decentralization and to make service provision demand-driven.

211. Whereas national leadership and authority for sustainable development policies rest with Governments, responsibility-sharing initiatives with local authorities and communities, non-governmental organizations, public-private partnerships and individual citizens, including indigenous peoples, are all important for effectively addressing sustainable development issues. Enhancing the participation of women in decision-making at all levels is crucial to effective water, sanitation and human settlements planning and management.

212. Good governance at the international level is crucial to providing an enabling environment for sustainable development.

Finance

213. Ministers noted that the public sector remains the principal financier of water, sanitation and human settlements infrastructure investments. With decentralization of services, local governments bear a growing share of

financial responsibility. Attention was drawn to the importance of measures to provide them with, and/or empower them to mobilize, the needed resources.

214. A broad-based appeal was made for development partners, in the spirit of mutual accountability, to move towards meeting the full Monterrey commitments, and to target an increased amount of funding specifically for investments in water, sanitation and human settlements. Official development assistance could help to leverage private capital through a variety of financing schemes, including market-based financing models for small and medium-sized enterprises, with a potentially large multiplier effect on domestic resource mobilization. Ministers recalled the commitment made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to promote open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems that benefit all countries in the pursuit of sustainable development.

215. Mobilization of investments from the private sector for water and sanitation was considered of crucial importance although the view was expressed that investments by private companies would be insufficient to fill the water and sanitation gap for the poor. With appropriate policy and institutional support, including the further development of supportive regulatory frameworks and innovative financing schemes, the role of small-scale entrepreneurs in providing affordable services to the poor could be strengthened.

216. Appropriate financing arrangements are needed to meet the housing requirements of the poor and, in particular, residents of informal settlements. It was noted that traditional mortgage lending institutions had begun to extend lending to low-income households, though generally not the poorest, and that this needed to be further encouraged through schemes like partial loan guarantees. Also, microcredit finance can provide valuable support to home improvements of slum dwellers lacking access to formal credit markets. Scaling up microcredit facilities to benefit more of the poor, and especially the poorest, remains a challenge.

217. It was recognized that the partnership approach taken at Johannesburg and beyond could be a valuable and important modality to leverage additional resources for sustainable development. It was noted that partnerships should respond to the needs of developing countries and not the priorities of donors and that they should complement and not substitute for intergovernmental efforts.

Water

Integrated water resources management

218. Ministers stressed that meeting the target of developing integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005, addressing water quantity and quality concerns, should be a political priority, and efforts at implementation need to be accelerated.

219. They acknowledged that governance of the water sector was often hampered by unclear division of responsibilities and accountability and limited coordination among various agencies. Integrated water resources management

plans offer the opportunity to rationalize water management and break down sectoral compartmentalization. Agencies responsible for land management could usefully coordinate more closely with those responsible for water resources.

220. The experiences and the value of cooperation and the management of water resources on the basis of river basins were noted, particularly in the context of international watercourses. Further development and implementation of an ecosystem approach, including recognition of the services ecosystems provide, was recognized as one of several options that should be promoted, depending on priorities and circumstances. Ministers emphasized the importance of improving water efficiency, particularly in irrigated agriculture, and expressed concerns over water scarcity and depletion and pollution of ground water resources in many areas. The need to consider the interlinkages between freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems was recognized.

Drinking-water supply

221. Ministers stressed that providing access to safe drinking water is essential to improve health, particularly for children, and alleviate poverty. They noted that financing investments in water supply systems required a mix of public investment and cost-recovery through user fees, combined with targeted subsidies to ensure access to affordable water for essential purposes by poor people.

222. Rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure requires actions on several fronts. Funds must be available not only for construction of water facilities but also for long-term operation and maintenance. Some countries have moved towards fuller cost recovery to strengthen financing for maintaining, expanding and improving water supply. It was noted that targeted subsidies were an important means for ensuring access for poor people.

223. Ministers emphasized that Governments retained responsibility for the provision of safe drinking water and that effective private sector involvement required a sound regulatory system. They noted the need for further assessment of the role of the private sector as a source of both investment and expertise in utility management, including operation and maintenance. However, water resources themselves are considered to be in the public domain.

224. The urgent need to improve water supply and sanitation in Africa was recognized and ministers welcomed new initiatives to that effect.

Sanitation

225. Ministers emphasized the need to raise the visibility of sanitation and hygiene given its central importance to sustainable development. The high costs to societies of improper sanitation, and the significant economic, social and environmental benefits from investments in sanitation were recognized. They noted with appreciation that sanitation was for the first time being considered in a comprehensive way as a separate item on the agenda of the Commission.

226. Ministers emphasized that access to basic sanitation, coupled with hygienic behaviours such as hand-washing, can have significant positive impacts on privacy, dignity, security, health, education and economic growth. The importance of creating and maintaining public demand for sanitation services was noted. In view of the significant positive public health impacts, public subsidies for sanitation and awareness raising are justified. These subsidies need to be targeted to the poor.

227. Ministers acknowledged the importance of identifying and applying low-cost technologies well adapted to local social and physical environments in water supply, sanitation, and wastewater treatment, as alternative to water-borne sewerage. High-tech solutions and conventional sewerage networks may not necessarily be the best or most cost-effective solutions, but should be considered on a site-specific basis. Meeting the sanitation target would require particular attention to sanitation provision in rural areas.

228. Women and girls play an especially important role in household water supply, sanitation and hygiene and serve as agents of change. They are also particularly vulnerable to inadequate sanitation. Women should be involved in the planning, design and location of water supply and sanitation facilities. The importance of providing separate sanitation facilities for girls in schools was noted.

229. Ministers stressed the urgency of improving wastewater management, particularly in developing countries, to protect health and the environment, including both freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Human settlements

230. Ministers noted that in the coming years almost all population growth will take place in urban areas of developing countries, and in the form of informal settlements. To make real progress in addressing the slum problem, the international community would need to surpass significantly the Millennium Development Goal for improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers.

231. Ministers emphasized the importance of secure tenure, entitlement to land, and freedom from unlawful eviction. It was noted that by setting up formal systems for registry and titling of property and dwellings, Governments could empower citizens to transform their assets into working capital and access to finance. The growing challenge of meeting poor people's need for employment and decent shelter in healthy and secure communities was acknowledged.

232. Empowering the poor was seen as critical for improving their livelihoods and their communities. The voices, priorities and capacities of civil society and local communities need to be recognized, and the energy of local entrepreneurs needs to be tapped.

233. Ministers stressed the crucial role of women and voiced support for mainstreaming the gender perspective in policies and programmes related to human settlements. The conditions in slum settlements have a disproportionate

impact on women and children. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has heightened the urgency of addressing the inheritance rights of female household members.

234. Rapid urbanization poses a major challenge to urban planning and development. The development of policies that support rural development and positive interactions among rural and urban settlements has become increasingly important. Ministers noted that long-term integrated land-use planning and urban management, especially in the areas of transport and other services, is essential for developing sustainable cities.

235. The impacts of conflicts and natural disasters on human settlements infrastructure can be devastating. National disaster preparedness, including land-use planning, mitigation and recovery programmes should be developed and can be strengthened through regional cooperation, for example in the context of specialized regional collaborative centres. It was noted that some small island developing States and other countries are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

Responding to challenges: the way forward

236. Ministers identified a number of challenges that need to be addressed in the course of the policy year in an effective follow-up to the twelfth session of the Commission, consistent with the programme of work adopted at the eleventh session, with a view to strengthening implementation to meet the agreed goals and targets in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements, including:

(a) Mobilizing resources from all sources, international, regional, national and local, public and private, to meet the Millennium Development Goals and goals and targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Water, sanitation and human settlements in national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategy papers, and ensuring that both processes are inclusive and nationally driven and that their implementation is monitored;

(c) Strengthening governance at all levels to ensure proper and efficient use of scarce resources;

(d) Improving inter-agency cooperation and cross-sectoral coordination among international organizations in accordance with their mandates and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well cross-sectoral cooperation and donor coordination at the national level contributing to the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan;

(e) Enhancing the role of partnerships in mobilizing new and additional resources, and encouraging those that effectively contribute to meeting national needs;

(f) Building capacity for water management, sanitation and human settlements planning and development in developing countries, with financial and technical assistance from developed countries and international organizations. Capacity-building at the local level is particularly important in view of the trend towards decentralization of service provision;

(g) Increasing the transfer of appropriate technologies and scientific and technical cooperation;

(h) Disseminating knowledge and experience, particularly on low-cost and locally adapted approaches and technologies, and scaling up successful experiences;

(i) Strengthening monitoring, assessment and reporting mechanisms to improve decision-making and to enable measurement of progress towards targets, while recognizing the need to reduce the reporting burden;

(j) Addressing the special needs of Africa, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

(k) Enhancing the roles and status of women, as participants and agents of change, and mainstreaming gender in planning, decision-making and management;

(l) Accelerating implementation of commitments to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, addressing economic development, poverty reduction, environmental protection and sustainable consumption and production, including water efficiency in agriculture;

(m) Increasing recognition of the importance of sanitation and hygiene to health, poverty reduction and other aspects of sustainable development, as a basis for mobilizing public and private resources;

(n) Addressing the major challenges to urban planning and land-use management posed by rapid urbanization, and ensuring the effective participation of local authorities and communities, including the poor, in these processes;

(o) Improving the conditions in informal settlements, including through linking them to the broader urban and national economies, creating employment opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship among the poor, in particular for women.

Chapter III

Preparations for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 2nd, 3rd and 23rd meetings, on 14, 16 and 30 April 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and interregional levels (E/CN.17/2004/8);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the International Meeting (E/CN.17/2004/9);

(c) Letter dated 26 March from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Alliance of Small Island States Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, submitted by the Group of 77 and China (E/CN.17/2004/12).

2. The Commission, working as a three-day open-ended preparatory meeting for the International Meeting, held two meetings, as well as a number of informal meetings.

3. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 April, the Chairman opened the session and made an opening statement.

4. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made an introductory statement.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the International Meeting, Anwarul K. Chowdhury, addressed the Commission.

6. At the same meeting, the Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas made a statement.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman (Mauritius) of the Alliance of Small Island States introduced the draft strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was submitted by the Group of 77 and China.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the delegations of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, as well as the Acceding Countries, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the Candidate Countries, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro), the United States of America, Tuvalu and the Russian Federation.

9. Also at the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand and facilitator of the informal consultations, made a statement.

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April 2004, the Commission heard an oral report on the outcome of the consultations facilitated by New Zealand on the preparations for the International Meeting.

11. At its 23rd meeting, on 30 April, during the high-level segment, the representative of Mauritius made a statement.

12. At the same meeting, statements regarding the preparations for the International Meeting were made by the delegations of Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), New Zealand, the United States, the Bahamas (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Barbados, Guyana, Dominica, Cape Verde, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the International Meeting made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

14. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 April 2004, the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting approved the requests for accreditation as observers to the International Meeting and its preparatory meeting of non-governmental organizations and other major groups.

15. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting adopted the draft provisional agenda for the International Meeting contained in document E/CN.17/2004/L.2, as orally revised. The agenda read as follows:

1. Opening of the International Meeting.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Election of officers other than the President.
5. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the International Meeting; accreditation of intergovernmental organizations and major groups.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee.
7. Credentials of representatives to the International Meeting:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate: comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
9. Adoption of the final outcomes of the International Meeting.
10. Adoption of the report of the International Meeting.
11. Closure of the International Meeting.

16. At the same meeting, on 16 April, the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting adopted its draft report (E/CN.17/2004/L.4).

Chapter IV
Other matters

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 9th and 23rd meetings, on 21 and 30 April 2004. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (E/2004/12-E/CN.17/2004/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementing the decisions of the Commission related to improvements in national reporting and further work on indicators of sustainable development (E/CN.17/2004/17);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (E/CN.17/2004/18).

2. At its 9th meeting, on 21 April 2004, the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the delegations of Belgium, Qatar, Costa Rica, the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the United Kingdom, Mexico, Slovenia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, India, South Africa, Cuba, the United States, Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

4. Also at the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

5. At the same meeting, the observers for trade unions and women (on behalf of the major groups) also made statements.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 23rd meeting, on 30 April 2004, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (E/CN.17/2004/18).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Commission

1. The Commisssion considered item 6 of its agenda at its 23rd meeting, on 30 April 2004. It had before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirteenth session (E/CN.17/2004/L.5).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda, and recommended it for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twelfth session

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 30 April 2004, the Commission had before it its draft report (E/CN.17/2004/L.6).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion with a view to its submission to the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter VII
Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its twelfth session on 9 May 2003 and from 14 to 30 April 2004. The Commission held 24 meetings, as well as informal meetings and a number of associated activities.

2. From 14 to 16 April, the Commission worked as a three-day open-ended preparatory meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

3. At the 4th meeting, on 19 April, the Chairman made a statement.

4. At the same meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Willem, Prince of the Netherlands, addressed the Commission.

5. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of UNEP, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the Associate Administrator of UNDP made introductory statements.

B. Election of officers

6. At its 1st meeting, on 9 May 2003, the Commission elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chair:
Børge **Brende** (Norway)

Vice-Chair:
Bruno Stagno **Ugarte** (Costa Rica)

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 April, the Commission elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Vice-Chairs:
Toru **Shimizu** (Japan)
Bolus Paul **Zom Lolo** (Nigeria)
Eva **Tomič** (Slovenia)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:
Bolus Paul **Zom Lolo** (Nigeria)

C. Agenda and organization of work

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 April, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document E/CN.17/2004/1 and approved its organization of work. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2004-2005:

   (a) Water;

   (b) Sanitation;

   (c) Human settlements.

4. Preparations for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

5. Other matters.

6. Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twelfth session.

D. Attendance

9. The session was attended by representatives of 53 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and secretariats of treaty bodies, as well as observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations, also attended. The list of participants will be issued in document E/CN.17/2004/INF/1.

E. Documentation

10. The documents before the Commission at its twelfth session are listed in annex I.

Annex I

List of documents

Document symbol	*Item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.17/2004/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.17/2004/1/Add.1	2	Status of documentation
E/CN.17/2004/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of progress towards sustainable development: a review of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
E/2004/12- E/CN.17/2004/3	5	Report of the Secretary-General on inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development
E/CN.17/2004/4	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on freshwater management: progress in meeting the goals, targets and commitments of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
E/CN.17/2004/5	3	Report of the Secretary-General on sanitation: progress in meeting the goals, targets and commitments of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
E/CN.17/2004/6	3	Report of the Secretary-General on human settlements: progress in meeting the goals, targets and commitments of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
E/CN.17/2004/7 and Add.1-5	3	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the reports of the regional implementation meetings for the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

E/CN.17/2004/8	4	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
E/CN.17/2004/9	4	Note by the Secretariat on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meeting
E/CN.17/2004/10 and Add.1-9	3	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the discussion papers on water, sanitation and human settlements submitted by major groups
E/CN.17/2004/11	3	Note by the Secretariat on the outcome of the International Expert Group Meeting on a 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production
E/CN.17/2004/12	4	Letter dated 26 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Alliance of Small Island States Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
E/CN.17/2004/13	3	Note by the Secretariat on the outcome of the Workshop on Governance for the World Summit on Sustainable Development Implementation in Countries with Economies in Transition
E/CN.17/2004/14	3	Letter dated 13 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of an international conference on the theme "Water for the poorest"
E/CN.17/2004/15	3	Letter dated 8 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General on the outcome of the International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development

E/CN.17/2004/16	3	Report of the Secretary-General on partnerships for sustainable development
E/CN.17/2004/17	5	Report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementing the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development related to improvements in national reporting and further work on indicators of sustainable development
E/CN.17/2004/18	5	Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007
E/CN.17/2004/19	3	Letter dated 1 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Hong Kong Declaration on Sustainable Development for Cities
E/CN.17/2004/20	3	Note by the Secretariat on human rights and the environment as part of sustainable development
E/CN.17/2004/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
E/CN.17/2004/L.2	4	Draft provisional agenda for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
E/CN.17/2004/L.3	4	Draft decision: Draft provisional organization of work for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
E/CN.17/2004/L.4	4	Draft report of the open-ended preparatory meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
E/CN.17/2004/L.5	6	Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Commission

E/CN.17/2004/L.6	7	Draft report of the Commission on its twelfth session
E/CN.17/2004/BP.1-9 and 11		Background papers

Annex II

Partnerships Fair

A. Participating partnerships

Presentations: Partnerships related to water, sanitation and human settlements

Adriatic Sea integrated coastal areas and river basin management system pilot project

Caring Cities: volunteer capital for urban development

Community water initiative

Development and implementation of new, improved and tailored methodologies, tools and materials for training and capacity-building on mainstreaming gender in integrated water resource management

Dialogue on effective water governance

Earth observation for integrated water resources management in Africa

Establishment of networking partnership for sharing knowledge and cooperation through activities of the third World Water Forum

European Union water initiative: Water for Life-Mediterranean Component; Euro-Mediterranean water and poverty facility: a tripartite programme of action

International Flood Network

International network for capacity-building in integrated water resources management (Cap-Net)

Local environmental planning and management

Mediterranean education initiative for environment and sustainability, with an emphasis on water and waste

My Community, Our Earth: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development

Network of regional governments for sustainable development

Nile Basin Initiative

North-eastern Brazil groundwater project

Partners for Water and Sanitation

Partnership for Water Education and Research

Safe Water System

Seawater Forest Initiative

Sustainable Cities Initiative

Sustainable Rural Development and Ecovillage Training Programme

Systemic integration of networks for sustainable freshwater management at West/Central Asia and North Africa national and regional levels

Transfer of Know-how held by local Japanese governments working to address environmental problems

Water and Nature Initiative

Water for Asian Cities

Water for African Cities

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all Initiative

White Water to Blue Water

Women for Water

Presentations: Other partnerships

Abu Dhabi Global Environment Data Initiative

Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project

Central Asian Initiative for Sustainable Development

Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles Partnership

Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program

Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Environmental Emergencies Partnership

Equator Initiative

Global Dialogue on Mining/Metals and Sustainable Development

Global information system on sustainable development — Mediaterre

Health and Environment Linkages Initiative

Healthy Environments for Children Alliance

International Law for Sustainable Development

International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)

Partnership for Principle 10

Population and Sustainability Network

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative: People Shaping their Sustainable Futures

The Seed Initiative

The Southern Caucus of NGOs for Sustainable Development: Five Multi-Regional Partnership and Policy Centers

United States Clean Energy Initiative

Workplace Assessments Partnerships

Information desks: Partnerships related to water, sanitation and human settlements

Caring Cities: Volunteer Capital for Urban Development

Establishment of networking partnership for sharing knowledge and cooperation through activities of the third World Water Forum

Getting research and pilot activities into practice, to improve access to water and sanitation services in African cities and towns

Greywater use for urban agriculture in the Middle East — North Africa

International Flood Network

Network of regional governments for sustainable development

Nile Basin Initiative

North-eastern Brazil groundwater project

Partners for Water and Sanitation

Partnership for Water Education and Research

Seawater Forest Initiative

Sustainable Rural Development and Ecovillage Training Programme

Transfer of Know-how held by local Japanese governments working to address environmental problems

Water and Nature Initiative

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all Initiative

Women for Water

Information desks: Other partnerships

Central Asian Initiative for Sustainable Development

Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Environmental Emergencies Partnership

Equator Initiative

Healthy Environments for Children Alliance

International Law for Sustainable Development

International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)

Partnership for Principle 10

Population and Sustainability Network

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative

The GlobalGiving Alliance

United States Mexico Environmental Health Training Project

Poster exhibits: Partnerships related to water, sanitation and human settlements

CGIAR Challenge Programme: Water and Food

Global Mapping

Greywater use for urban agriculture in the Middle East — North Africa

My Community, Our Earth: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development

Pacific Umbrella Initiative: Pacific Strategies for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Regional Consultation on Sustainable Water management

Systemic integration of networks for sustainable freshwater management at West/Central Asia and North Africa national and regional levels

Transfer of Know-how held by local Japanese governments working to address environmental problems

Water and Nature Initiative

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all Initiative

White Water to Blue Water

Poster exhibits: Other partnerships

African Regional Centre for Infectious Diseases

Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles Partnership

Educating for Sustainable Living with the Earth Charter

Flour Fortification Initiative

Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership

Global Information System and Land Surface Analysis, Monitoring, and Mapping for Sustainable Development to support Decision Making

Global Village Energy Partnership

Institutional consolidation for systemic planning and management toward poverty alleviation and environmental conservation in a framework of sustainable regional development in the Hindu Kush, Karakorum, Himalaya mountain complex

International Law for Sustainable Development

International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership)

Livelihood enhancement, conservation of biological diversity and stability through systemic trans-boundary resource management in the Limpopo corridor

Network of Spatial Decision Support Systems toward the sustainable use of plant diversity in the Southern African Development Community Region

Niger Delta Fund Initiative

Partnership for Clean Indoor Air

Poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation in islands with high biodiversity value: sustainable development planning and management in the Galapagos (Ecuador) and Socotra (Yemen) archipelagos

Sustainable Biotechnology and Agriculture in Africa

System planning and management of transboundary ecosystem resources in the south-western Amazon for the sustainable development of local communities and regional stability

The GlobalGiving Alliance

The Seed Initiative

Videos

Equator Initiative

Seawater Forest Initiative

Sustainable Rural Development and Ecovillage Training Program

Water and Nature Initiative

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all Initiative

B. Interactive discussion sessions

In keeping with the goal of fostering interactivity and open dialogue during the twelfth session of the Commission, six interactive discussion sessions were organized within the Partnerships Fair.

Two of these sessions were moderated discussions on the contribution of partnerships to the implementation of international commitments on the thematic cluster of issues:

- Interactive discussion: Partnerships for human settlements
- Interactive discussion: Partnerships for water and sanitation

The other four sessions focused on practical issues related to partnerships, specifically:

- Interactive discussion: Tools for management of partnerships information
- Interactive discussion: Practical issues of defining a partnership's goals and structure
- Interactive discussion: Practical issues of communication and coordination within partnerships
- Interactive discussion: Practical issues of funding for partnerships

Annex III

Learning Centre: list of courses

Title, (subject area), instructor(s) and instructor affiliation for each course are listed in the order that they were scheduled:

Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development: The national sustainable development strategy from concept to action (institution/capacity-building), Mr. Mersie Ejigu, Partnership for African Environmental Sustainability

Consensus Building for Natural Resources (institution-building), Dr. Pietronella van den Oever and Ms. Marguerite Monnet, World Bank

How to Apply for GEF Projects (institution/capacity-building), Mr. Frank Pinto and Tehmina Akhtar, UNDP/GEF

Investing in Communities (human settlements), offered in French, Ms. Marguerite Monnet and Dr. Pietronella van den Oever, World Bank

ICT Networking Approaches and Development Solutions for Sustainable Development (institution/capacity-building, water, sanitation), Ms. Radhika Lal, UNDP

Urban Governance Tools to Support Sustainable Urbanization (human settlements), Dr. Dinesh Mehta, Ms. Shipra Narang, Mr. Rafael Tuts, UN-Habitat

Learning about Water Management (water, capacity-building), Mr. Karl Torstein Hetland and Dr. Faye Benedict, University of Oslo, and Ms. Astrid Sandås, National Board of Education (Norway)

Science and Technology for Decision Making (institution/capacity-building), Dr. Calestous Juma, Harvard University

Restoring Urban Waterways (water), Ms. Bonnie A. Harken, Nautilus International Development Consulting, Mr. Sean C. S. Chiao, EDAW Urban Design and Mr. George Stockton, Moriyama and Teshima Planners

Integrated Water Resource Management (water), by Dr. Colin Mayfield, United Nations University and University of Waterloo, Canada, Dr. Velma Grover, United Nations University International Network on Water, Environment and Health

New Integrated Water Resource Management Concepts, including non-conventional water resources such as desalination (water), Ms. Else Boutkan and Mr. Allerd Stikker, Ecological Management Foundation

Improving cities and the lives of the urban poor (human settlements), Dr. Elliot Sclar, Columbia University, and Dr. Pietro Garau, University of Rome "La Sapienza"

Water Supply, Sanitation and Health: Public Health Aspects (capacity-building, water, sanitation), Professor Magara, Hokkaido University

Gender and Sanitation (sanitation), Ms. Maria Arce Moreira, Gender and Water Alliance, Ms. Ethnè Davey, South Africa Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Ms. Karin Krchnak, World Resources Institute

Finance for Water and Sanitation (water, sanitation, capacity-building), Mr. John Wasielewski, USAID, Mr. Paul L. Freedman, USAID, Mr. Martin Baker, Salans, Mr. Gersan R. Zurita, Fitch Ratings

How to address the Millennium Development Goals in relation to water, Mr. Kees Leendertse, Cap-Net/UNDP, Mr. Ingvar Andersson, UNDP and CapNet

How water decision makers and water professionals can address integrated water resources management (water), Mr. Kees Leendertse, Cap-Net/UNDP and CapNet

Use of the Global Environment Facility Processes for Collaboration on Transboundary Waters (water), Dr. Martin Bloxham, University of Plymouth

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